Introduction Of Kampot Province

This province is located in the Southwest of the country, having an eighty kilometres coastal strip with the Gulf of Thailand. The provincial capital is named Kampot and sits near the base of the abundant green Elephant Mountains and the famous Bokor Hill Station. Compete to crowded Sihanouk Ville in the North of the province you may find quietness.

Kep Beach, Rabbit Island, Bokor Hill Station, and countryside tours are perhaps the most popular day tours out of Kampot with tour operators offering very competitively priced tours.

The Kampot area also offers several other attractions including pre-Angkorian ruins and caves, jungle trekking, bicycling tours, river cruises, island trips, fishing trips, isolated beaches, pepper plantations, bamboo train rides and some beautiful rural countryside.

Most visitors come here to have a look at the old French colonial architecture, which is one still in charming condition, to have a vantage point for visiting the near beaches or the small islands of Kep province. Kampot province is also renowned for the quality of its fruits (durian, coconut, mango, etc.), its sea salt and of course the famous Kampot Pepper. The special fresh climate and soil type of Kampot as well as the experience from several generations of pepper farmers make this pepper unique and much sought-after by gourmets worldwide.

The small town of Kampot on the Tuk Chhou River is 5km inland from the sea. Fishing and farming are the main activities; durians and melons grow in abundance.

On the circle is the Prachummith Restaurant, which is close by is the Amar Restaurant. To the south near the river is the GPO and telecommunications building. At the north end of town, about 1.5 km away, lays the Central Market, with quite a lot of food stalls. All Kampot transportation is concentrated within the range of the market cycle, motors, taxis, trucks, and buses. The railway station lies further north, but isn't used anymore now renovating.

Kampot History

At one time, Kampot was one of Cambodia most important ports. The legacy of French colonial administration is stronger there than in most other provincial towns. The riverside is lined with turn of the century buildings languishing in stately decay. At one time, their strong, simple geometrical forms, high ceilings, hardwood floors, and mustard yellow walls symbolized both the simple orderliness and foreign grandeur of French administration. One of the most distinguished examples is the old market that sits chained, padlocked, and abandoned but for the few noodle stalls that set up on its edges in the evenings.

The most prominent symbol of Kampots history, however, is more than a thousand meters above the town on the top of Bokor Mountain. The site for this renowned community was first accessed in 1916. In the years that followed, the French constructed a luxurious hill station there in order to have place to escape the brutal heat and oppressive humidity of the tropics and partake of the cool, fresh, and supposedly healthful air of higher altitudes. For many homesick colonials, the hilltops climate was a reminder of European summers.

The community was inaugurated on Valentines Day, 1925. Originally, there was a post office, Catholic Church, schoolhouse and other buildings. French officials and Cambodian royalty took the convict-built road to the top. There they held opulent gatherings at the hotel and threw away fortunes at the celebrated casino. In its heyday, broken gamblers were rumoured to have flung themselves from the casinos terrace and plummet to their deaths down the jungle-covered cliff overlooking the Gulf of Thailand.

The approach of war brought the days of Bokors colonial splendour to a close. It was abandoned first in the 1940s, during the Vietnamese struggle for independence from the French, and then again in 1970 with the growing menace of the Khmer Rouge. Forces loyal to Pol Pots radical Maoist ideology took control of the mountain in 1972 and established a strategic military outpost. The road fell into disrepair, and mines were laid that rendered the site hazardous for decades.
In 1979, the invading Vietnamese army engaged the Khmer Rouge on the site, and the vestiges of their outposts are still visible today.

Following the end of Vietnamese occupation, the area around Kampot continued to suffer from bad press. In 1994, Khmer Rouge soldiers attacked a passenger train bound for Sihanouk Ville. They slaughtered local passengers and abducted three foreigners, who were forced to endure slave labour while officials negotiated for their release and were finally taken into the jungle and executed. The last pockets of Khmer Rouge were not extinguished here until long after most other parts of the country in 1998.

**Geography**

Kampot province is 4.873 square kilometres big. It's located in the Southwest of the country and is bordering to the North with Kampong Speu, in the East with Takeo, in the West with Sihanouk Ville and Koh Kong and to the South with the Gulf of Thailand. The East of the province consists of the typical plain area for Cambodia, covering rice fields and other agricultural plantations.

The Western part of the province shows up with the well known Bokor National Park, being a part of the grant Elephant Mountains, which is rich in lush forests and a huge range of wildlife. The two highest points in the province are the Bokor Hill Station with 1,027m altitude and further north another hilltop with 1,050m altitude. Some people consider the countryside similar to the sharp Vietnamese limestone rocks shooting up of flat plain sand; an impressive aspect.

**Climate**

The country has a tropical climate - warm and humid. In the monsoon season, abundant rain allows for the cultivation of a wide variety of crops. This year round tropical climate makes Cambodia ideal for developing tourism. Travelers need not to fear natural disasters such as erupting volcanoes or earthquakes, and the country is not directly affected by tropical storms.

Climate: Cambodia can be visited throughout the year. However, those plans to travel extensively by road should be avoided the last two months of the rainy season when some countryside roads may be impassable. The average temperature is about 27 degrees Celsius; the minimum temperature is about 16 degrees. December and January are the coolest months, whereas the hottest is April. Kampot itself is one of the cooler regions of the country, due to its situation next to the sea and high rainy mountains it’s cooler and fresher.

General information about the provincial climate:
- Cool season: November - March (20-26c)
- Hot season: March - May (29c -34c)
- Rainy season: May - October (22-30c, with humidity up to 90%)

**Population**

The current population in this province is about 619,088 people or 4.31% of the country’s total population (14,363,519 person in Cambodia, 2007, provincial government data), with 299,814 male and 319,274 female. The population density is therefore 127 people per square kilometre.

**Economy**

Various actors, according to the needs of the most important target groups, implement rural development measures effectively and efficiently. Above all, the rural population should be able to sustainably better satisfy their basic needs. Beside the profitable fruit cropping such as durian, mango or coconut Kampot Pepper has been renowned for decades as one of the best peppers in the world. This pepper has a very distinct flavour and smell, especially when it’s fresh harvested. It develops an enthralling aroma, strong, delicate and aromatic. Therefore it is famous in the world and exported to many countries.

**Shopping**

As it is quite common in Cambodia even small cities, such as Kampot have at least one big market. You may also find a market in Kampot centre, which are very busy areas with local shops dealing the local daily consumer products, like fish, fruits, vegetables, meats and packed products. Most of the food and drink shops are surrounding the market. To take something special from this province along, buy some famous Kampot Pepper.
**Tourist Attractions in Kampot**

**Kampot Town**

Kampot is a charming little town that’s rich in colonial atmosphere and blessed with an abundance of natural beauty. It sits on the banks of the broad Preak Kampong Bay River, overlooking the dark silhouettes of the Elephant Mountains, and is encircled by sweeping green paddy fields and dense tropical jungle. It is renowned for a sleepy backwater feel that has beguiled many travelers to stay for a few extra days.

Unlike most other small towns in Cambodia, but similar to certain riverside towns like Kratie, Kampot hosts a relatively high concentration of Western expatriates. For the traveler, this means that there is plenty of Western owned bars, restaurants, and guesthouses serving a wide variety of delicious food and dishing out sound local information in a number of languages.

The town goes to bed early, and for many seems to be caught in a time warp. There is no riverside scene seared by neon lights, no kids racing doing wheelies and no traffic jams of Lexus SUVs. Kampot is a town where you can go for a stroll down the street, sucking in deep breaths of fresh air, dine al fresco on seafood straight from the waves, and admire the clean, straight lines of colonial architecture that is such a welcome contrast to the Wedding Cake and Legoland styles so popular in present day Phnom Penh.

**Bokor Hill Station**

Make sure you get an early start. The summit of Bokor (1,080 meters high) is reached at the end of one of the worst roads in Cambodia and the journey (about 30km) takes a lot longer than you would think. Heavily potholed and scattered with reefs of the original asphalt surface, it is best traveled by 4WD or motorbike.

Spectacular views of the Gulf of Thailand glimpsed through the lush jungle and the abandoned buildings that dot the roadside grab your interest, and the journey is forgotten the moment you experience the summit's extraordinary atmosphere. At once beautiful and sinister, the hill station buildings include a Catholic church and an old hotel, the aptly named and monumentally proportioned Bokor Palace, as well as a number of other crumbling dwellings. The view out to a sapphire sea across a vertiginous drop to dense emerald green jungle from what was the terrace of the Palace is remarkable.

It's easy to see the strategic significance of Bokor Hill Station, and even easier to see the scars of the many battles that have been fought there. Even on a sunny day it has a sinister aspect, redolent with mystery, as though the buildings, covered with red-pig-mented lichen, are steeped in the blood of their violent past.

Possibly the best known of these battles had the Khmer Rouge holed up in the Catholic church shooting it out with the Vietnamese in the Bokor Palace. It is only too possible to imagine this scene as you gaze across the windswept plains from the upstairs windows of the Palace, or wander through its echoing and cavernous ruins. But this only increases the fascination of the place.

The 15-minute drive from the hill station to the crystal clear waters of the popular Popok Vil ('Swirling Clouds') Waterfall takes you past the abandoned and decaying grass huts of the Khmer Rouge families who once lived here. A 20-minute walk down a dirt track from the car park brings you to the first and more accessible of the waterfall’s two spectacular tiers. But it's worth making the effort to get to the second tier. It's here that you find out why the falls are so named. Clouds of the finest mist hover over the falls to magical effect.

And so, back to Kampot and an evening at one of the guesthouses lining the river-bank; drink in hand you watch yet another spectacular tropical sunset over the brooding hills of Bokor. It is as richly exotic and intensely satisfying a way to conclude a traveler’s day as any experienced. You should try it.

**Caves near Kampot**

The caves of Phnom Ta Aun are part of a limestone formation. There are narrow cave, chimney and passages with rock formations. A bit more interesting are the caves at Phnom Sia. One cave contains a supposedly elephant shaped rock formation that is treated as a shrine. Bring a flashlight. Limestone mountain (Phnom) dot the landscape between Kampot and Kep. Many contain limestone caves, some adorned with exotic rock formations, and almost all containing Buddhist shines. Make sure to bring a torch and wear shoes suitable for climbing on rocks.
On your sightseeing trip to Kampot you would find that there are various places of attraction in and around Kampot. The caves near Kampot are other famous attractions for those tourists who are on a sightseeing trip to Kampot. These caves near Kampot are nothing but limestone formations which you would find all through the stretches between Kampot and Kep. These limestone caves near Kampot sometimes house exotic rock formations and in almost all the caves near Kampot you would find Buddhist shrines. When you plan to visit these caves near Kampot make sure that you are carrying a torch and have put on proper trekking shoes. Among the caves near Kampot at the first caves that you would come across is that of the caves of Phnom Chhnork.

The first of these caves have pre-Angkorian ruins within the limestone caves. You would find various brick structures of 5th century AD amongst the stalagmites and stalactites that are formed within the cave. You would also find 4th century structures which are the evidences of the state of Funan. While you enter the cave you would find limestone formations in the shapes of elephants. The entrance of the second cave lies about 300 meters from the first cave and to reach there you have to climb various piles of rocks and go through small openings. You would find a small shrine too in the second cave.

Caves near Kampot in Cambodia further include the cave at Phnom Sla Ta Aun Plain which is smaller in comparison to the other caves but still it is attractive to the climbers. The interesting things that you can find here are a small shrine as well as a huge rock that is balanced in a hole on the ceiling of the cave. Another interesting one among the Caves near Kampot is the cave at Phnom Sor Sear which is also known by the name 'White Elephant Cave'. This cave is located next to a beautiful pagoda. If you go up the stairs that rise from the side of the limestone outcropping then you would get a wonderful view of the countryside especially during the monsoon. In this cave you would find a shrine. This shrine is located at the base of a limestone formation which resembles the shape of an elephant. Thus when you are on a sightseeing trip to Kampot you should not miss the opportunity of visiting the caves near Kampot Provincial Town.

Handicrafts

Most of the handicrafts made of the sea shells and corals that are popular with tourists are made in Kampot province. This handicraft is sold along the beaches and very popular with tourists. Corals are also popular with visitors. The coral is washed until it is white, and sold on the beach to local and foreign visitors. Because coral is rapidly disappearing from the sea and oceans, however, environmentalists discourage tourist from buying these souvenirs.

Kampong Trach

Kampong Trach is the district that borders Vietnam. The road trip from Kampot to the main town passes through some picturesque rural areas. There is a new side road to Kampong Trach town that skirts the base of Phnom Voar, (where the victims of the 1994 Khmer Rouge kidnappings were held) These mountain areas of Kampong Trach were one of the last Khmer Rouge holdouts. Kampong Trach town is small and relatively uninteresting. The area's main attraction is a series of limestone caves and tubes that have been carved into a nearby mountain. The roof of a large cave in the center of a mountain has collapsed, making a small, enclosed jungle.

Pagodas and shrines have been built amongst the caves, providing for some excellent photo possibilities. Bring a flashlight and wear good walking shoes. From Kampot, take the Kep road, bear left at the White Horse Monument and follow to Kampong Trach. After a few kilometers the road changes to badly broken pavement. The side road mentioned above requires a left turn onto a graded dirt road about 7 km past the White Horse Monument. It is not a straightforward route and it may be better if you go with a guide. Set aside the better part of a day for the trip to the caves and back.

Kep Thmey

Kep Thmey, Kampot is one of the most-visited tourist attractions in Kampot. The Kep Thmey, Kampot is one of the popular wildlife parks in Kampot. Get to know more about Kep Thmey, Kampot through Kampot Travel Guide. Kep Thmey in Kampot is a natural wildlife reserve. It is situated in Kep Thmey Village in Beoungtouk Commune, Kampot
The Kep Thmey, Kampot is located 8 kilometers from the Provincial Town of Kampot. The other wildlife parks in and around Kampot are Phnom Chhnok, Phnom Seda Orn and the Phnom Daung.

The Phnom Chhnok is nestled in Bos Trobek Village, Trorpeang Pring Commune, Kampot District. The Phnom Daung is located in Beoung Tapream Village, Treuy Koh Commune. While the Phnom Seda Orn is nestled in Angkor Village, Kep Thmey, Kampot is home to a large population of animals and birds. Here you can catch the wild animals in their natural habitats. The park is a haven to different kinds of animals like tigers, gibbons and birds like Chestnut headed Partridges, Orange headed thrush and Plu Pitta. It is covered with various species of trees and plants.

**Phnom Chhnok**

Phnom Chhnok Classification Nature Wildlife and Preserves Location Bos Trobek Village, Tror Peang Pring Commune, Kampot District Accessibility 9km (22mn) From Provincial Town.

**Phnom Daung**

Phnom Daung Classification Nature Wildlife and Preserves Location Beoung Ta Pream Village, Treuy Koh Commune, Kampong Bay District Accessibility 7 km (11mn) From Provincial Town.

**Phnom K’Chnor**

Pre-Angkorian ruin set in a limestone cave amongst stalagmites and stalactites that are slowly growing into the ruin. Small 4th-5th century AD brick structure associated with the ancient state of Funan. A bit of carving is still visible. When you go for sightseeing in Kampot a must visit spot is Phnom K’Chnor, Kampot. The Phnom K’Chnor, Kampot is nothing but a cave containing ruins which would give you an idea about the historical heritage of Kampot.

Phnom K’Chnor, Kampot is a place where you can take your own car provided you are very good in driving, but if you are not sure of driving then it is better that you take a trail bike. Always take the help of an expert guide before you set on a trip to Phnom K’Chnor. In Phnom K’Chnor you would find a shrine dating from pre-Angkorian dynasty and it dates back to the 4th century and it is set in a limestone cave up in a mountain. Those of you who are interested in going to Phnom K’Chnor, they should take the road that leads to Kep from Kampot and after traveling for 8 kilometers you have to take the left turn. Then you can travel down a dirty road for 5 kilometers which intersects beautiful rural farmlands.

After sometime you would come across a railway line and after crossing the line you would find the way leading to the base of the mountain. Here you would find the shrine which is renowned as a healing center of Buddhist faith. The ruins that you would find at Phnom K’Chnor, Kampot are nothing but brick structures from the 4th and the 5th century AD and are evidences of the ancient state of Funan. There is no entrance fee for visiting the Phnom K’Chnor. Thus here you might find people involved in some sort of ceremony at any time. It is advisable that you do not visit the Phnom K’Chnor during monsoon because the road is quite treacherous at this time Kampot Province has its rich agricultural land for the farming such as pepper farm, rubber plantation, especially the well known through the Kingdom of Cambodia, Kingdom of Wonder!, of its durian plantation. Beside, local people ever known this province is the very good place making the tasty fish sauce and salt.

**Phnom Seda Orn**

Phnom Seda Orn was Classification Nature Wildlife and Preserves Location Angkor Village, Trorpeang Pring Commune, Kampot District. Among the chief tourist attractions in Kampot, mention must be made of Phnom Seda Orn, Kampot. Plan a visit to the Phnom Seda Orn, Kampot on exotic sightseeing tours in Kampot, Cambodia.

Just located at a distance of 6 kilometers from the provincial town, the Phnom Seda Orn, Kampot is a major tourist
attraction. It will just take 10 minutes to reach your desired destination. If its nature and wildlife that attracts you, you must plan a visit to the Phnom Seda Orn in Kampot.

One of the widely-known nature and wildlife preserves, the Phnom Seda Orn, Kampot is the best place for nature lovers and wildlife enthusiasts. Adorned in untamed flora and fauna, the Phnom Seda Orn in Kampot should feature first and foremost in any tourist’s itinerary.

If you are visiting Phnom Seda Orn, Kampot, you must also catch a glimpse of the attractions nearby. The Rabbit Island is a chief tourist destination close to this verdant nature reserve. This breathtaking island has endless white sandy beaches flanked by coconut trees. The azure waters lure you to plunge in. You can enjoy a number of water sports here.

For absolute adventure lovers, snorkeling is the perfect option. You go for a thrilling snorkeling experience around the rocks. You will get to see a variety of marine life here. You can also visit the Bokor Hill Station near Phnom Seda Orn in Kampot.

**Prek Ampil**

Prek Ampil is located on the coast in Koh Toch commune, Kampot district, about 18 kilometers west of the provincial town. Prek Ampil features a white sand beach with thousands of mangrove and coconut trees growing nearby, making the site ideal for visitors looking for a pleasant place to relax.

In addition, there is an array of fresh seafood such as crab, cuttlefish, lobster and snails, as well as abundant coconut juice. The waters off of Prek Ampil are rich in corals, a natural attraction that could attract tourists who enjoy snorkeling or scuba diving. With the exception of Teuk Chhu, none of the sites listed above have been developed for tourism, although efforts have been made to stop further destruction at the sites. Today, locals and some foreigners visit the sites to do research.

**Prek Thnaot**

Prek Thnaot is located in Kampot province, between Sihanouk Ville and Kampot Town. It is partially situated within the Bokor National Park and can be reached by bus, minibus or taxi. From Kampot Town it takes a 30km ride along National Road 3 or a 90km drive from Sihanouk Ville along National Road Number 4.

**Rabbit Island**

Rabbit Island is a small tropical island located about 20-40 minutes south of Kep by local boat. The island is blessedly undeveloped and lacks most services except for some rustic bungalows and a couple of rudimentary beach shack restaurants. Secluded white sand beaches dot the edges of the island, backed by a hilly coconut palm interior. Most services are near the west side beach. The surrounding waters are relatively clear and warm, offering some snorkeling opportunities around the rocks. Coral is scarce but colorful fish abound.

You can stay on the island or make a day trip of it - go in the morning, lounge on the beach and return to Kep in the afternoon. Rooms/bungalows on the island run $10 or less. Arrange a boat trip to the island through your guesthouse in Kampot or Kep or just go to the Koh Tunsay Boat Dock in Kep town next to the Long Villa Restaurant. Boats are almost always available. A round-trip trip to the island and back runs $20 for the whole boat, so bring some friends to split the cost. The round-trip price is the same whether you stay a few hours or a few days. Tour operators and guesthouses in Kep offer day packages starting at about $7/person inclusive.

**Salt Product**

Salt products are among the items Cambodia produces for export. Cambodia can produce enough salt for use inside the country and also for export. Most of products are made in Kampot district nearby the sea.

**Teuk Chhu Resort**

Teuk Chhu is located in Snomprampi village, Makprang commune, Kampot district, about 8 kilometers north of Kampot provincial town. Its main attraction is a stream that flows from Phnom Damrei via Phnom Kamchay. The cool, clear water flows over large rocks year round. This is a good place for swimming or bathing.
There are many kinds of delicious fruit available, including durian, mangosteen, rambutan, Mak Prang, pineapple, grapefruit, custard apple and coconut. Only the durian, however, is available year round. Not far from Teuk Chhu is a zoo and plantation organized by His Excellency Nhim Vanda. The zoo raises animals, while the plantation grows a variety of fruit trees, including durian, rambutan and other fruits.

The Teuk Chhu Resort, Kampot is a well known tourist attraction in Kampot in Cambodia. Kampong is a small town in the country of Cambodia. This town is a known tourist destination in this country. It is renowned for its limestone caves and other sightseeing spots which are worth visiting. This town is visited by several vacationers and holidaymakers who visit this country from all parts of the globe. You will have a good time exploring the beauty of this region. The Teuk Chhu Resort, Kampot is a good place to hang out with your family when you are in Kampot, Cambodia. The Teuk Chhu Resort in Kampot is a popular picnic place close to the town. The Teuk Chhu Resort in Kampot is set on the Prek Chha River. This resort in Kampot is famous among the local people. On weekends you will find the Teuk Chhu Resort in Kampot very crowded. People in the nearby regions enjoy spending their weekends here.

Many tourists also flock to this resort. The rapids here are very beautiful. The kids can play nearby and have a nice time. The cool river breeze will refresh you and will make your trip to this place a pleasant experience.

Near the Teuk Chhu Resort in Kampot you will find various stalls. These stall generally sell drinks and food. The food is decent and fresh. Various local as well as international cuisines are on offer at these stalls.

There is a small zoo near the Teuk Chhu Resort in Kampot. Many animals and birds are kept here in enclosures. You can go with your family and friends and visit this zoo. Your kids will simply love watching animals at such a close distance.

Transportation in Kampot is also conveniently available. You will find several modes of transportation which will take you to the Teuk Chhu Resort in Kampot in no time. The roads leading to this resort are very good. You can take a car on rent and drive down to this place or hop onto various buses which ply to the Teuk Chhu Resort, Kampot.

This pleasant bathing spot is a major hit with locals. Waterfall enthusiasts should prepare themselves for a disappointment; however as these falls, 8km northwest of town, are really just a series of small rapids that don’t even move all that rapidly in the dry season. There is a proper waterfall 18km further up a dirt track from Teuk Chhu, but access is not straightforward, as the trail is pretty bad.

**Teuk Chhu Zoo**

Asian-style mini zoo was displaying a variety of local faunas 8km north of Kampot. Teuk Chhu Zoo and rapids set among gardens and fruit plantations at the foot of the Elephant Mountains on the west bank of the Teuk Chhu River, 12km northeast of Kampot, the Teuk Chhu Zoo (daily 7am-5.30pm, $3) is home to a wide range of fauna, including tigers, a pair of playful young elephants, lemurs and gibbons.