

# TRAVERSE

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WHEN ADVENTURE RIDING SLOVAKIA  
**IT MIGHT TAKE A LIFETIME**  
EXPLORING THE RICHES OF PATAGONIA

***CAMBODIA'S GREAT ESCAPE***



# CAMBODIA'S GREAT ESCAPE



*Enigmatic smiles. A culture rich with history. A land of agricultural plains and jungled mountains. Cambodia is a country filled with adventure for the travelling explorer. Tagging along with Great Escape Motorbike Tours we discovered a land of unique villages, inquisitive locals, and an adventure bike riders paradise ...*



A rollercoaster of emotions is one way to describe the experience of discovering Cambodia through means of a motorcycle.

Bordered by Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos, Cambodia is a kingdom that casts a spell. A vibrant culture merged with the fast pace of a modern world; the charming people look forward to showing their country to the intrepid traveller.

Cambodia has a history that depresses and inspires. The darkest of humanities moments has seen the country and its people grow, to become one of the humility and good nature, filled with optimism and hope, a people that see that life continues and it's a life worth sharing.

An early morning ride through the street of Phnom Penh is an introduction like no other when considering a motorcycle tour. It's an experience that Matt Reilly





of Great Escape Motorbike Tours is keen to pass onto his riding travellers. For the uninitiated it's a way to become familiar with riding in Asia, it's chaotic and challenging, yet in a well-mannered, almost polite way. On a larger than most Honda XR250 the locals recognise you're not from 'around here' and provide room, even guidance on how to move with the flow. A great introduction to Cambodia.

Heading south, along the path of Highway 2, the experience of Cambodian roads continues. Roadside vendors selling everything from kitchenware to wooden toys, coconuts to meat of all descriptions. A sensory overload that has only just begun.

Through backroads, villages live their lives, fishing, herding cattle, tending rice paddies. A glimpse into the real Cambodia without the hustle of the cities. Kep







the first night of Great Escape Motorbike Tours venture into Cambodia, a chance to take in the days riding with a cold beer whilst watching the fishing fleet head out.

Ancient temples, Buddhist monks, Cardamon pepper. A loop through mountain towns, fishing villages and tourist resorts. Following the coast, a chance for a detour to the remains of numerous attempts at conquering the mountains, the French, the Chinese, both came and went, a unique view of colonialism and the remnant remains.

Toward Thailand, far from the main cities and towns, a glimpse of what is to come. Life on the water, a night on a floating resort. Koh Andet, an opportunity to relax and enjoy the river life amongst a jungle canopy. This is the thing on a ride with Great Escape Motorbike Tours, you are kept local yet at unique and





often luxurious hotels. The comforts of running water, flushing toilets, and air-conditioning whilst being amongst the people. Koh Andet is an experience not to be forgotten.

Riding north, the roads replaced with sandy tracks. Construction crews will have a new highway completed much quicker than we in the West. The sand is deep and rutted yet never a challenge for a competent rider. It's a part of the Cambodia experience.

From the mountains to the lake, Tonlé Sap, the 'fresh river' or 'great lake'. South East Asia's largest lake and home to many unique communities that call the vast waters home. Floating villages, stilted towns, the people take advantage of the riches from the lake, aqua and agriculture abound. The rich environment







recognised by the United Nations and listed as a UNESCO Biosphere reserve. A short dirt road and a boat ride later and we are amongst the people of a floating village, a unique community with schools, hospital, and markets.

Matt and his crew at Great Escape Motorbike Tours know all the local communities, a similar village on the eastern side of Tonlé Sap demonstrates life high above the water. Stilts built to cope with the high waters during the wet season. A different way of living, so very similar to that of the floating people.

Riding further north, Battam Bang, Siem Reap, a chance for more culture, more delicious Khmer food, more hospitality. Siem Reap is a town of two worlds, the traditional meeting the tourist. Siem Reap is home to Angkor Wat, and nearby Angkor Thom, and the surrounding archaeological remains.





Considered to be the largest religious site in the world, Angkor Wat is 900 years old and a sight to behold. Taking more than a day to explore the many temples and ancient constructions, the full history of Angkor Wat is hazy at best, in fact no one knows its original name or definitive purpose. Angkor Thom, is of the same period, much larger and yet not so recognised. It's a way to view the past without the tourist hoards. Both fall under the same UNESCO banner. Two nights in Siem Reap allow a cultural visit.

Culture is high on the priorities when it comes to Cambodian adventure with Great Escape Motorbike Tours. The riding is comfortable and only a challenge for those less willing to be open minded. Matt Reilly leads, his wealth of local knowledge is highly regarded, as is that of sweep rider and mechanic extraordinaire, Uon Youhan. Together they ensure that all riders are well looked after, physically and emotionally whilst allowing enough space for you to do your own things off the bikes.

Cambodia is a land of the unknown and a country that will continually call you back, if it's a land that has always been a place of interest then take the first step and contact Matt at Great Escape Motorbike Tours.

**Great Escape Motorbike Tours**

**[www.greatescapemotorbiketours.com.au](http://www.greatescapemotorbiketours.com.au)**

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