

Joe Englander

PHOTOGRAPHY

WORKSHOPS & TOURS

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ANGKOR WAT: TYPICAL PHOTO TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1

BANGKOK TO SIEM REAP

We will meet in Bangkok and transfer to Siem Reap. The flight usually leaves at around 11 AM. So if your international flight arrives in the early AM you can do a direct transfer otherwise, you will need to overnight in Bangkok. I can suggest several lodging alternatives.

We will be met at the airport and transferred to the **Hotel**. Siem Reap is the nearest town to the incomparable Khmer temple complex of **Angkor**, the main goal of our journey to Cambodia. The architectural masterpiece of the Angkor complex was constructed between the 9th and 12th century when Angkor was both the power base of a mighty military and political force, and the heart of a rich and sophisticated civilization. It was the heart of the Khmer Empire, which began in 802. It covers an area of about 300 square kilometers. The site is both vast and diverse, from early tiny brick-built towers to massive sandstone Ta Keo. We will see massive stone monuments, wide majestic causeways, imposing gateways and towers – all in a wonderful jungle setting. It was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1992. Atmospherically surrounded by patches of dense jungle forest and standing proudly above rice paddies, the temples do not feel like sterile museum pieces, but rather they seem to still be part of everyday life—aspects of which continue much as they are depicted in the temple's bas-reliefs.

Since this is a Buddhist country, one might assume that the temples are basically devoted to Buddhism. On the contrary, they are primarily devoted to the Hindu cosmos, which is symbolized in the layout of the majority of the temples. Angkor's sites are as diverse as the kings that built them, and each temple has its own distinct appeal. For instance, **Angkor Wat** is not only an artistic feat but also an emotional experience; no amount of background research can prepare you for the real thing. **Angkor Thom**, whose much-photographed south gate is topped by massive faces looking out in the four cardinal direction is reached by a stunning causeway that passes through gods and demons on either side. The faces of Angkor Thom are repeated in the hundreds at **Bayon**; more than two hundred icily smiling gargantuan faces stare down from 54 towers. **Ta Prohm**, sometimes called the “jungle temple” has had its appeal enhanced by the jungle that is subsuming it.

Our first morning is dedicated to a visit of the most famous temple—magnificent **Angkor Wat**. The first glimpse of its breathtaking sanctuaries will linger in your memory forever! I'm certain you'll enjoy photographing the many galleries with columns, libraries, pavilions, courtyards and ponds full of water reflecting the towering temple. Intricately carved bas-reliefs extend the length of the outer walls and corridors, depicting mythological scenes and day-to-day life at

the time of Angkor's construction. As you approach, the intricacy of the layout will become apparent, and close up, every nook and cranny reveals itself to be filled with fine detail, each one surpassing the last.

We will have lunch at **Angkor Cafe** in front of Angkor Wat.

During the afternoon we will visit the “Great City” of **Angkor Thom**, which was probably more opulent than most European cities in the late 12th Century. There are five entry gates to the 3-kilometer square complex: one for each cardinal direction and an additional “Victory Gate.” Our visit includes the famous **Bayon**. This exquisite temple will absorb a lot of time and film. The cluster of face-towers in the SE corner of **Bayon's** upper terrace, seen from the SW corner in the late afternoon makes a classic image. If we have the opportunity, we could also do a late afternoon view from **Bapoun** with its giant reclining Buddha, but the summit of **Phnom Bakheng** will be calling, as it commands a magnificent view over the **Angkor Wat**. I'm sure we won't be alone when we climb to the summit of **Bakheng** for the sunset. Getting there before sunset doesn't hurt because it is a nice late-afternoon view. Be certain to bring flashlights for the descent.

Dinner is back at the **Hotel** in Siem Reap.

DAY 2

Siem Reap

I want to do a sunrise from **Ta Prohm**. After breakfast, we'll return to **Ta Prohm** for several hours. **Ta Prohm** is a favorite because it is becoming part of the jungle. Enormous kapok trees grow from the terraces and walls, their massive roots clinging to the walls and framing doorways. The temple attracts plenty of visitors, but it is usually quiet early in the morning when mist rises off the algae-covered stones. The ruins of the central sanctuary of **Ta Prohm**, seen from the rooftops of its NE corner in the early morning are spectacular. Other sites for the morning might include the lions flanking the stairs at **Phimeanakas** within the Royal Palace enclosure; **Baphuon**, if we haven't done it already; the **Terrace of the Elephants**, where a bas-relief frieze of life-sized elephants stretches for hundreds of meters; and maybe the **Terrace of the Leper King**, and **Preath Pithu**. We will take a lunch break.

Following lunch, we will visit a selection of temples in the northeastern section, including the Royal City of **Preah Khan** (translates as the Sacred Sword) which features fabulous carved stone lanterns and impressive sculptures in a semi-collapsed state surrounded by the encroaching jungle creating an “enchanted garden” appearance; **Neak Pean** (literally, entwined serpents) consists of a number of pools joined by walkways with single tower sitting in the center of the largest pool; and **Ta Som** with its strangler fig trees, is miniature Ta Prohm without the hordes of visitors. Sunset will be from practically undecorated and stark **Ta Keo**.

DAY 3

Siem Reap

We want to have breakfast as early as possible because we'll be driving quite a way from Siem Reap, beyond the main Angkor complex to visit another favorite temple— the enchanting **Banteay Srei**. Our goal would be to take photographs of the un-walled inner enclosure of **Banteay Srei** from the SE

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corner very early in the morning. **Banteay Srei** appears to be a temple designed to leave no space undecorated, and the fine carvings in fine-grained rose-pink sandstone are quite unique. It is the most elaborately decorated monument in the Angkor complex; it is considered by many to be the one of Angkor's finest temples. Our second visit will be to **Banteay Samre** – featuring elaborate architecture, exceptional carvings, and uniquely, two moats within the complex itself.

After our lunch, we'll return to **Angkor Wat** or **Angkor Thom** to continue where we had to leave off on Wednesday. Our sunset will be from **Ta Prohm**.

DAY 4

Siem Reap

We should do sunrise of the towers of **Angkor Wat** from the western entrance before breakfast. But it would be really nice to get there a little early so that we can also photograph the towers reflecting in one of the two basins just before sunrise. The *apsaras* on the east-facing wall of the western entrance are particularly nice right at sunrise, too.

After as early a breakfast as possible, we'll drive out to the east-facing **Roluos** ruins at the ancient Khmer civilization site of **Hariharalaya**, which flourished in the late 9th and early 10th centuries. These are the earliest temples in the Angkor area and are referred to as the **Roluos group**. The three Roluos temples are **Bakong** Temple Mountain with wonderful carvings on the false doors and lintels, the funerary temple of **Preah Ko**, and **Lolei** with the group's most exquisite carvings and inscriptions.

Probably we'll want to return to **Ta Prohm**, **Angkor Thom** or even **Angkor Wat**. There will always be monuments that we didn't get to see, but this is not a bird-watching check-off-the-list type trip. If we have time we'll take in **Ta Nei**, **Ta Keo**, **Thommanon** and **Chao Say Tevoda**.

The towers and central sanctuary of Angkor Wat from the NW corner of the second terrace are outstanding in the late afternoon. No matter what, we'll want to be **Angkor Wat's** west entrance *gopura* for the sunset.

DAY 5

Siem Reap–Bangkok

It would be great to get our American breakfast as early as possible because before leaving Cambodia, we'll want take in two or three more sites: **Banteay Kdei** with its very attractive carvings, **Srah Srang** - a Royal bathing place, and **Prasat Kravan** with its unique brick sculptures. **Srah Srang** seen from its platform is a great sunrise shot. **Banteay Kdei's** eastern entrance, with its face-tower, seen from the road running between it and **Srah Srang**, in the early morning, is another dynamite image. Then we'll check out and transfer to Siem Reap Airport for departure.

HOW TO ENROLL

We'd love to have you join us; please take the time to enroll now to avoid disappointment. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Many of our activities are very popular and at popular locations, and therefore reservations can be difficult to obtain, so your early response is important. An early return of your application will significantly aid in your obtaining your choice of activity and accommodations.

Since applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, a payment for the full fee or a 50% deposit must accompany your application to reserve your space. The entire fee must be paid 120 days prior to the

program's inception; failure to complete payment may be treated as your cancellation, as if in writing. Fees vary as indicated in the catalogue and website. Services included vary; all programs do not include identical services. Unless otherwise noted, fees for most are tuition and lodging only and do not include transportation, food, or guide fees and gratuities. If a program is full or cancelled, your deposit will be returned.

We cannot guarantee landscape, transportation, or weather conditions; trip, baggage, medical, and evacuation insurance is offered by several commercial carriers.

DEFINITIONS & EXPLANATIONS

Workshops: Workshops are times of intense learning and photography. Our workshops emphasize photography on location. We seek to balance the attraction of extraordinary locations with excellent instruction. We believe that you will learn more by actually taking photographs under supervision than through classroom lectures alone. At a workshop you can expect the full attention of your leader, but you can also expect to learn by observing the techniques your leader exercises while making his own photographs. Workshops frequently include lectures, slide presentations, and portfolio reviews that are impractical during expeditions and tours.

Expeditions & Tours: Tours are for photographers at all levels and differ from workshops primarily in the amount of classroom and lecture time available. A greater degree of individual attention can be expected on a tour than on an expedition, but somewhat less than on a workshop. Expeditions are for those photographers who have moved beyond the need for instruction in the basics, but who desire some help in identifying potentially great photographs and working out difficult problems.

Master Classes: examine the entire photographic process from making an image to presenting a finished print. Master Classes are for those photographers who have moved beyond the basics, but who desire some help in identifying potentially great photographs and working out difficult problems. Master Classes are designed to include scheduled sessions of editing and image finishing with either Photoshop® or darkroom techniques following the field work.

Pricing of Trips: All pricing is in US dollars and based on exchange and room rates at the time of scheduling. Since many of our trips are planned more than a year in advance, currency fluctuations, changes in lodging, guide, or other prices, may cause increases in fees that are sometimes unavoidable. We reserve the right to amend prices without prior notice. If such increases become necessary, we will inform you as soon as possible; an increase in prices shall not be deemed sufficient grounds for refunds other than as determined by the cancellation policy. Rates are based on group tariffs; if the trip does not have sufficient registration, a supplemental fee may have to be charged. Where accommodations are included in pricing, costs are based on twin occupancy. Singles, when available, are more expensive. If no one is available with whom you can share, or if you desire single rooms, we must ask you to pay a single supplement charge.

Refunds & Cancellation: If you must withdraw more than 120 days before an activity, your deposit, less any deposits made on your behalf with other suppliers, government agencies, etc., and less \$75 administration costs will be refunded to you by check; deposits placed with such suppliers will be refunded when remitted to us. If you must withdraw within 90 days of a workshop, your entire fee may be forfeited unless the vacated place can be filled. Such cancellation charges are not transferable. If a program is full or cancelled by us, your deposit will be returned.

Dates & Times: Programs begin at the specified location on the date listed at normal lodging check-in time. Programs end on the date specified by normal checkout time. Travel days are not included in our listings. Although many operators include travel days as part of their listings (and thus manage to charge for days you're not there), our listings are for the first day of activity. Complete information is included with the packet you will receive after registration.

Accommodations: After we receive your completed application, including appropriate fees or deposits, you will receive information regarding schedules and accommodations. Your early return of your application will significantly aid in obtaining your choice of accommodations. We will make appropriate reservations for you. Generally, single-occupancy accommodations are included as part of our pricing; please read listings carefully to determine if rooming costs are included. Occasionally clients with single rooms may be compelled to share a room due to circumstances beyond our control.

Local Transportation: At most North American field workshops we will be traveling from our base location to photographic sites, so cars are considered part of your equipment. If we can, we will certainly try to arrange car-pools to improve logistics and reduce rental expenses. At foreign locations, transportation provided will be specified in the itinerary. Where land costs are included, they do not include en route transportation or accommodations.

International Transportation: In order to allow use and collection of frequent flyer mileage, and in order to allow individuals to tailor their itineraries to their varying personal needs, we do not involve ourselves in group fare pricing, bucket fares, or ticket acquisition. When possible, we will be happy to inform you of routing and providers we have found reliable.

Visas and Passports: Obtaining and paying for government required documents are the responsibility of individual participants. In certain circumstances, we will try to facilitate applications, but we are not a government agency and cannot take responsibility for obtaining or issuing such documents.

Inoculations and Other Health Matters: In those locations where there are special health and disease concerns, you will be informed. However, you are personally responsible for maintaining and keeping current your inoculations, prescriptions, and dietary regime. Specific information about foreign locations is available by email, fax, and internet from the Center for Disease Control.

Group Size: Compared to most similar operations, our group sizes are very small. The group sizes indicated for any particular activity are probable limits set without knowing who will be participating. The number of participants may be slightly increased or decreased at the discretion of the leader.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

It is important for you to understand that by enrolling in and attending a program you are accepting certain risks. Your application shall serve as a release of our liability and a complete assumption of all risks by you and your heirs, administrator, executors, successors, and assigns for all members of your family and any persons accompanying you. Your signature on the application indicates that you are aware that travel, wherever it may be and by whatever means, involves some inherent risk of injury, illness, death, loss, or damage to personal property, which may be caused by forces of nature, negligence or actions of others, or other agencies. In consideration of, and as part of the payment for, your participation in our programs, workshops, excursions, exploratories, expeditions, or other activities, you are voluntarily releasing Joe Englander Photography and all those involved with it from any liabilities because you are assuming the risks yourself. You are voluntarily traveling to areas which may be remote or foreign, mountainous or wilderness, and which may not be operated nor maintained to the standards to which you are accustomed and therefore may involve certain additional risks, dangers, and inconveniences including, but not limited to, forces of nature, terrorism, civil unrest, wild animals, hotels and other accommodations, airplanes, vehicles, taxis, boats, roads, walkways, trails, and other means of conveyance. You must be aware that medical services or facilities may not be readily available during all or part of the trip, and that this includes emergency medical care, presence of physicians, and adequate medication. We assume no responsibility for medical care or any special dietary requirements you may have.

In addition, your application signifies that you release and will hold harmless Joe Englander Photography, as well as its officers, agents, sponsors, and associates, from any and all liability, actions, causes of action, claims, debts, and demands of every kind and nature whatsoever which you now have or which may arise in connection with your participation in any activities arranged by them including, without limitation, all liability, actions, causes of action, claims, debts, and demands related to the negligence of said

persons. You must understand that travel with a group invariably involves compromise to accommodate the diverse desires, travel goals, personalities, and physical abilities of group members. You must further understand that while itineraries are carefully planned, they are not a guaranteed schedule of activities, events, or participation, but only an example. Participants must allow for flexibility and changes deemed necessary by the program leader. In addition, there may be situations beyond our reasonable control due to geographic, climatic, physical, or governmental restrictions that will cause further changes in timing, locations, and activities. You understand that there are no discounts or refunds for activities curtailed or otherwise affected by such circumstances. You have assumed the responsibility to select an activity appropriate to your physical abilities and interests. You are personally responsible for being in sufficiently good health to undertake the activity. By forwarding a signed application form and deposit, you certify that you do not knowingly have any physical or other conditions of disability that would create risk for you or other participants. We reserve the right to request a doctor's statement of good health.

You will be responsible for studying all pre-departure information; for bringing all detailed and appropriate equipment and clothing; for conforming to standards of personal hygiene; and, for acting in a manner considerate of fellow group members and the locations and people visited. You understand that we reserve the right to cancel any activity and to accept or reject any person as a member of any activity. The program, workshop, expedition, excursion or exploratory leader's judgment shall provide the ultimate determination of an individual's ability to participate in, or to continue to participate in, any activity or program.

Your signature on the application is an acknowledgment of your understanding of your responsibilities and your consent and acceptance of them. All participants are urged to purchase appropriate travel insurance including trip cancellation and interruption insurance.

REGISTRATION

Send with payment (check or credit card) to:

Joe Englander Photography
P.O. Box 1261
Manchaca, TX 78652

Location and date desired _____

Price \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ FAX _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

Age _____ M/F _____ Physical condition _____

Occupation _____

Phone: 512-922-8686

trip-info@englander-workshops.com

Years in photography _____ Days per year photographing _____

Format used, cameras owned, preferred format and camera: _____

Medium: Digital B&W Color prints Transparencies

Previous workshops attended: _____

How did you hear about us? Friend Internet Magazine

Reason for attending, what you'd like to learn: _____

Accommodations: Single Double with roommate (specify if you know with whom)

In the event that a particular program is cancelled, for any reason, the extent of our liability is limited to the return of fees paid as outlined above. All refunds will be made by check. As a program participant, you agree to accept full and complete responsibility for your own welfare and property as outlined above and assume the full risks of travel and participation in our activities, and your signed application is a waiver of our responsibility and liability to the maximum extent permitted by law. All workshops, tours, and expeditions are nonsmoking.

Credit Card Number (Visa or MasterCard)

Exp. Date

Applicant's Signature