

Kampot Part 1 October 2025

Friday 24th October, 2025.

We finalised our packing in the morning and caught a Tuktuk to the Giant Ibis bus station here in Siem Reap. Staff were helpful with tagging luggage and stowing it in the bus. Once on the bus, we found one of our seats was broken... the back rest leaned backwards all the time, but we moved to the seat behind after asking.

Our first stop (which was lunch) was very early, at just 10:30 am and it seemed to take forever to get our drinks. There was no problem with having my chocolate frappe put in a takeaway plastic drink cup to take back on the bus



A pretty waterlily at the lunch stop.

The next stop was meant to be just a toilet break, but the driver and his assistant were in no hurry to get back on the bus.



The view from the dining area of our second stop.

Then we drove on to Phnom Penh.

At the bus station, the Tuktuk drivers helped unload the bus and then were quite pushy for fares, promising the same fare as Pass app.

We were in the thick of afternoon peak traffic and were taken to the Caravan Hotel, not far from the Royal Palace and the waterfront.

It is a nice hotel, but needed a thorough clean (the bathroom did anyway).

We went down to the cafe next to the hotel for coffee and a toasted sandwich and our Tuktuk to take us for the evening river cruise arrived half an hour early.

We were taken to a wharf a long way from the usual tourist boats on the river and we got onto a nicely decorated boat. After some confusion about where to sit (there was a large group booking) we were allowed to sit on the deck because there was no where else!

A typical river cruise, with the busy river, ferries, barges and the sun setting over the Phnom Penh skyline.



Ferries crossing the rivers. This is where the Mekong River meets the Ton Le Sap River. Yes, it really is that big.



Sunset behind the Phnom Penh skyline.



Phnom Penh ... nearly dark.



The Royal Palace

We watched the storm clouds come across and the rain started just as we were getting back to the mooring.

We were being pushed by the wind (and the engine?) towards the walkway. I knew we were going to hit, and I warned the people standing to hang onto something. There was a loud crash, and we hit.

The boat crew and some wharf crew took a long time to tie up the walkway which had been dislodged and was unusable until they'd fixed it.

All of this happened in the pouring rain.

We left the boat safely and walked a short distance away to catch a Tuktuk back into the touristy / restaurant area just past the Royal Palace.

We looked at a Mexican food place, very expensive, and went next door where we chatted in broken Khmer with the head waiter, a woman of about 50, who was so happy that we could speak her language.

Then back to the hotel...

Saturday 25th October, 2025.

A leisurely breakfast in the hotel. The dining room was small and the staff were disorganised, but breakfast was fine. Not an extensive range of food, but a good range, and it was hot.

We ordered a Tuktuk to take us to Cheung Ek, the Killing Fields. It seemed a long way in the Tuktuk (partly because his motorbike had a worn wheel bearing, or something that was rubbing).

The Killing Fields

What can I say about this whole chapter of Cambodian history? Who could have thought that such organised extermination was possible?

It is a testament to the people of Cambodia that they can be so open and friendly now; perhaps you need such a dark experience to really appreciate family and friends.

The central monument.





The pits were the graves.



Our driver waited for us (guaranteed fare) and took us back to our hotel.

We walked out for a late lunch and unexpectedly found the Berlin Bar, where we had schnitzels and beer. Then we walked on to the supermarket to get snacks for the train.



David found a friend

We had a quick swim in the hotel pool and then an afternoon rest.

Perhaps I caught something on the bus, or even before then, because I had a splitting headache and a nervous tummy. David ordered in chicken and chips for him to eat and we just stayed at the hotel.

