

Cambodia

Cambodia is located on the Indochinese mainland of Southeast Asia, bordered to the west & northwest by Thailand, to the northeast by Laos, to the east and southeast by Vietnam.

Overview

Official Name

Kingdom of Cambodia

Capital

Phnom Penh

Independence Day

9 November 1953

The Flag

The flag of Cambodia comprises 3 horizontal bands of blue, red, and blue, representing the bravery of the nation, liberty, cooperation, and brotherhood. The Angkor Wat symbolizes justice, heritage, and integrity. Combined, these elements represent the nation's religion, the King, and its people.



Population, Territory and Currency

Population & total area

16,891,245 (2023 est.)

5,765 square km

Source: CIA World

Factbook

Currency

Cambodian Riel (KHR)

Average price per meal:

SGD 4.50

Key Historical Events

1863

The French Protectorate established colonial rule.

1953

Independence under King Sihanouk, Kingdom of Cambodia.

1978

Vietnamese intervention, the establishment of puppet regime.

1993

Monarchy was re-established with Sihanouk as king. Renamed to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

1941

World War II.

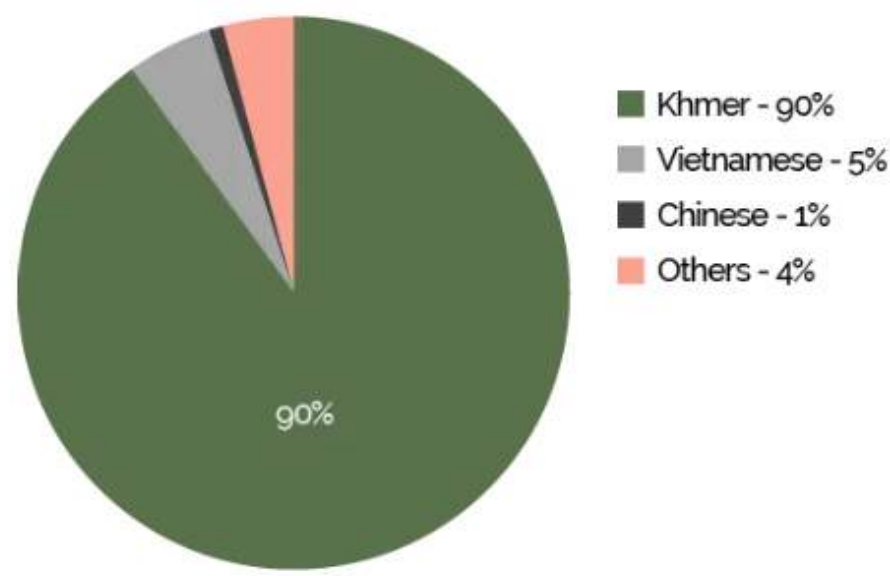
1975

Khmer Rouge occupies Phnom Penh, Cambodia "Year Zero".

1989

Withdrawal of Vietnam, renamed to the State of Cambodia. Buddhism was re-established as a state religion.

Demographics



Male-Female:

48.5%-51.5%

Urban Population:

25.6%

Youth aged 15-24

years: 17.28%

*Source: CIA World
Factbook (2023)*

Economic Profile

Cambodia has experienced significant economic expansion and poverty alleviation over the past twenty years, largely attributed to the growth of its garment exports and tourism sectors. However, the nation faces ongoing challenges as it strives for a more competitive economy, enhanced productivity, the establishment of robust institutions, and the broadening of opportunities for its citizens. Cambodia's GDP was estimated at \$72.238 billion in 2021.

Key Industries

Agriculture

Agriculture accounts for 22% of Cambodia's GDP and employs about 3 million people. Agricultural exports, e.g. rice, cassava, maize, pepper, fresh mango, and raw palm oil, reached 4.2 million tonnes in 2018.

Textile

Cambodia's major source of hard currency is its textile industry. It accounts for approximately 80% of Cambodia's exports. Overall, Cambodia contributes around USD6,719.84 million in textile exports annually.

Up-and-Coming

Technology: COVID-19 has accelerated the growth of Cambodia's digital infrastructure and increased the use of e-commerce platforms and social media.

Education: Recognising the importance of education in securing better employment opportunities, demand for higher education has been growing rapidly with considerable private sector and international-donor investments.



Fish Amok

Local Food

Fish Amok

Cambodia's signature dish, comprises creamy curry, diced fish fillet in egg, fish sauce and palm sugar.



Kuy Teav

Kuy Teav

A popular street food. Noodle soup made from pork or beef bones and rice vermicelli, with pork/fish balls added.



Beef Loc Lac

Beef Loc Lac

This dish consists of stir-fried beef strips atop lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, and raw onions with a lime juice & pepper dip.

Places of Interest

Bayon Temple

Built late 12th century

The Bayon is a richly decorated Khmer temple. Its most distinctive feature is the multitude of serene and smiling stone faces that jut out from the upper terrace and cluster around its central peak.



Bayon Temple



Angkor Wat

Angkor Wat

City of temples

The largest religious monument in the world, this temple complex was built in the early 12th century. It displays the classical style of Khmer architecture and remains a prime attraction for visitors.

Major Festivals

Khmer New Year

Khmer New Year, or Choul Chnam Thmey, is one of the largest celebrations in Cambodia. Falling on either the 13th or 14th of April, it spans across three days to mark the safe collection of the harvest and the welcoming of the rainy season. During this time, the majority of Cambodians return home to spend time with their loved ones. Traditional practices are carried out, such as lighting candles and incense at family shrines, giving charity to the poor, and washing the elders to cleanse and bring good luck.



Khmer New Year Celebration

Pchum Ben

Also known as Ancestors' Day, this festival is celebrated on the 15th day of the tenth month in the Khmer calendar. Cambodians believe that during this period their deceased relatives that are unable to move on to their next life return to roam the Earth. Food offerings are given to monks who will then pass them on to the hungry souls to ease their suffering.



Pchum Ben Festival