



2009 Discover Cambodia : **Volunteer, Immerse & Explore in Cambodia**

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| Location | Orientation in Samroang (Oddar Meanchey Province); sites vary depending on project/activities selected |
| Start Dates | All year round. Minimum 2 weeks. Maximum 6 months. Volunteer projects start every 1 st Monday of the month |
| Program Fees (in US\$) | 2 weeks: \$1260 1 week Orientation + 1 week Volunteer \$1435 1 week Orientation + 1 week Tour \$1435 1 week Orientation + Beach Week Extra Week: \$265-Volunteer or Cultural Activity, \$450 Beach, Tour or Trek |
| What's Included | All-inclusive orientation + volunteer, cultural or adventure travel Pick-up/drop-off and transfer to/from project site Accommodations (homestay or volunteer center) All meals during program Comprehensive Traveler's Medical Insurance Pre-departure and bi-lingual local support |
| What's not Included | International airfare Personal Expense Visa Fees (if applicable) |
| Accommodations | Safe, comfortable, clean basic accommodations in volunteer housing or host family. Shared bathroom. 2-3 meals per day available with projects or homestay. |
| Country Facts: | |
| Capital city | Phnom Penh |
| Population | ~14 million |
| Currency and exchange rate | Riel (CR) http://www.oanda.com |

Cultural Embrace's "Discover Cambodia" program consists of an exciting way for you to customize your own way to explore this beautiful country. A minimum of two weeks includes a week orientation to help you familiarize yourself with Cambodian culture, lifestyle, language, people, food, attitude, habits, and environment. Then choose to volunteer by teaching or tutoring English; or decide to travel in Cambodia to visit main attractions; or opt to enjoy a week on the beautiful beaches. This wonderful opportunity allows you to mix the different options so it will match your preferences and maximize your time in Cambodia.

Projects & Activities Description

Orientation

Our orientation and training are the first step for a successful stay in Cambodia. Therefore the first week is dedicated for you to familiarize yourself with Cambodia and meeting the other participants. You will engage in the following activities: learn about Cambodian culture, language and cooking lessons. Additionally, you will be informed about the details of your program and the different projects and activities.

Volunteer

If you are interested in volunteering during your time in Cambodia, *Cultural Embrace* can organize week-long projects for you to teach/tutor English local students. This program consists of helping students, aged between 7-18 years old, at various schools. Accommodation is generally in home stays with carefully screened and selected local families or in a local hostel.

Central Cambodia Tour

Cambodia is a country of considerable contradictions. After going through a troublesome and violent past with extreme poverty, Cambodia still retains its undeniable charm and glory. During this week-long tour, we will visit the archeological and world famous sites of Angkor Wat. We will also visit the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh, and a visit to the National museum. And let's not forget another highlight—tasting local Cambodian cuisine throughout the region! Accommodation in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh will be in basic local guesthouses located close to the city centre. This week-long adventure is available every third week of the month.

Sample Itinerary

- Monday: Siem Reap
- Tuesday & Wednesday: Angkor Wat
- Thursday & Friday: Phnom Penh Visit
- Saturday: National Museum
- Sunday: Sihanoukville with evening moonlight beach party

Beach

Our Beach week takes place in Sihanoukville, Cambodia's premier beach town. This is also the time for everyone to relax in the company of the other volunteers and a great way to reflect on your experience abroad.

Program Details & Highlights

Volunteer in Cambodia Offers:

- A first-hand experience to see and improve Cambodia

- A broader perspective on world views.
- Opportunity to learn the Cambodian's lifestyles and community initiatives as well as other cultural activities (ie: language, crafts, dance, etc)
- Memorable experiences while traveling and seeing exotic sites
- Lifelong friends from all around the globe
- International work and cultural experiences that strengthens your resume
- Support and development of self-confidence and personal skills

Cultural Embrace Offers:

- **Guaranteed Program Placement Prior to Departure**

Cultural Embrace pre-arranges your complete program before you leave home to ensure an easy and hassle-free transition to your new life abroad.

- **Accommodations**

All accommodations are included during the program. Housing will be located with either a carefully screened and selected host family, guest houses/hostels or volunteer sites.

- **Meals**

Most meals are included during your volunteer placement. Meals for allergies or special dietary restrictions will be met.

- **Arrival Assistance**

An airport pick-up and transfer to your volunteer center is included.

- **Arrival Orientation & Training**

An one-week all-inclusive comprehensive orientation will be included. The orientation introduces the local community, Cambodian cultures, basic Cambodian language, and Cambodian lifestyle.

- **Volunteer, Excursions or Beach**

Choose from one-week options to volunteer, travel excursions through central Cambodia, or relax at a beach. You may mix and match these options to maximize your time in Cambodia, or opt to spend more time at a specific location to become familiar and involved with the activity

- **Visa Assistance**

Cultural Embrace will assist you with the information to obtain a visa, but we have no control nor the ability to guarantee of government issuances and visa availability.

- **International Traveler's Medical Insurance**

Cultural Embrace includes a comprehensive international health insurance during your time on our program.

- ***Cultural Embrace* Cultural Kit**

Useful tips, advice, and information to prepare you for the amazing adventure of living and working abroad.

- **Full-time Representation**

Cultural Embrace provides English speaking representation in the United States and Cambodia.

Program Requirements

- Volunteers must be at least the age of 18. Or, if younger than 18, you must have parental or guardian consent
- Minimum commitment of 2 weeks, maximum 6 months
- Enjoy working and serving others in an underprivileged and struggling environment
- Open to foreign cultures and living abroad.
- Responsible and dedicated to full-term of commitment

2009 Schedule & Fees

| 2 Weeks | Extra Week |
|--|--|
| US\$1260 -Orientation (1)+ Volunteer (1) | US\$265 Volunteer or Cultural Activity |
| US\$1435 -Orientation (1) + Cambodia Excursion (1) | US\$450 Beach, Tour, or Trek |
| US\$1435 Orientation (1) + Beach (1) | |

**Prices listed in US Dollars*

***Please note-prices are subject to change according to world currency exchange rate.*

How to Apply

- 1) Obtain Volunteer Program Information and Application Forms.
 - Download the forms on our website. - OR -
 - Fill out our easy online application request form and the forms will be mailed to you within 7-10 days. - OR -
 - Call 1-512-469-9089/1-888-214-8570 (US/Canada toll-free) to have the forms mailed to you in 7-10 days.
- 2) Read the instructions carefully and complete all forms.
- 3) Submit your completed application packet to:

CULTURAL EMBRACE
7201 Bill Hughes Road
Austin, TX 78745 USA

- Completed packet should include
 - Volunteer Application
 - Signed Volunteer Program Agreement

- Copy of your passport - information page only
- Copies of diploma or certificates related to field of interest (if applicable)
- Resume/CV
- Cover Letter explaining why you want to join this program, and provide a service in Cambodia.
- Two references: preferably professional references and/or character reference
- Doctor's certificate verifying that you are in excellent mental and physical health
- Copy of Police Clearance (obtainable from your community's local police station)
- Two 1½" x 2" official passport style photos with your name printed on the back of each photo.
- One smiling full-length picture of yourself
- \$200 Non-refundable application (credited towards your program fee)

Upon receipt of your application, a **Cultural Embrace** coordinator will contact you for a 20-30 minutes phone interview. Once we accept you in to our program, you will receive an invoice for the remainder of your program fee. In order for us to contact our local partners to start your placement process, we require at least 50% of your program fee.

We recommend submitting your application and program fee at least 12-16 weeks prior to your desired start date in order for us to organize and arrange your volunteer placement.

***Cultural Embrace** requires an expedited application fee for those applying 12 weeks or less before the desired date of departure. Applications received 8-12 weeks prior to desired departure date will be charged \$150. Applications received less than 8 weeks before the desired departure date will be charged \$250.

Frequently Asked Questions

1) What are the living conditions like?

Accommodations vary with each project and location. Most regions will consist of carefully selected and screened host family, guest home/hostel, or at the project site. All lodging is clean, safe, and comfortable with padded beds, running water, flushable toilets, and other 'Western' amenities.

2) What are the meals like?

Most meals during your "Discover Cambodia" program is included. Cambodian food is delicious and tasty, for those that have a knack for spicy and flavorful dishes. Vegetarian and dietary meals may be met, however, if you have specific allergies, you may need to provide your own food. Please list any special dietary requirement on your application.

*3) What type of visa assistance does **Cultural Embrace** provide?*

A tourist visa can be used for this program, and many countries do not need anything to enter the country. Please check with your local consulate.

Please note, that any visa fees are the responsibility of the applicant. And, while **Cultural**

Embrace can assist you during the process, ultimately it is your responsibility to ensure that you have obtained the appropriate visa for your volunteer experience. **Cultural Embrace** has no control over the visa process and cannot guarantee that your visa application will be accepted.

4) *How long will it take to make my placement?*

We ask applicants to apply at least 12-16 weeks in advance of your desired start date. The placement may take less time than this, but we want to ensure that we have enough time to find a great placement for you! There are additional administrative fees if you apply less than 12 weeks in advanced, and we do not contact our local partners until we receive at least 50% of the program fee payment.

5) *What should I wear and bring to Cambodia?*

Depending on the time of year and location of your placement, you will need to dress accordingly. Since space is limited at volunteer sites, we ask that you keep your luggage to a minimum. Cambodia has a tropical climate with occasional violent storms, heavy rains and floods. During such times, we recommend appropriate raingear. **Cultural Embrace** will provide you with more details in your **Cultural Embrace** pre-departure kit.

6) *Can I volunteer and/or live with a friend or partner?*

Yes, you can enroll in this program with other people, and we encourage it since it will enhance your experience and memories. Additionally, you will receive a discount for referring friends and family to join you on the same or other CE programs. Although you may state your preferences for shared housing, you will need to be flexible and respectful of local customs.

7) *When should I buy my plane ticket and does **Cultural Embrace** provide any resources to help with plane tickets?*

Plane tickets should not be purchased until after your placement has been confirmed. **Cultural Embrace** volunteers with consolidators and discount travel agencies that can help find cheaper tickets than those that are available to the general public.

8) *What do I do when I get to Cambodia?*

Cultural Embrace will provide you with a handbook prior to your departure with the names and contact information of your local representative, company, and other useful resources for your time in Cambodia.. You will be picked up from the airport on a Sunday, and transferred to the orientation home, located in Samroang. You will attend a week-long orientation at this site, with more specific details of what to expect at the other locations you opt for. If you plan to arrive earlier than the program start dates and need assistance in Cambodia, please contact your CE coordinator, and we will assist you with more local options. Additionally, you will have an on-site local supervisor for any questions.

9) *What do I do if I have a problem or complaint within my volunteer placement?*

You must speak to your local English-speaking volunteer coordinator or representative to give them an opportunity to explain or investigate the situation. If the complaint still exists, please let **Cultural Embrace** (Austin office) know so we can mediate on your behalf.

10) *Why should I pay to volunteer abroad, and where does my money go to with **Cultural Embrace**?*

Cultural Embrace and our local partners in Cambodia specialize in arranging a guaranteed volunteer placement, housing and insurance prior to your departure. This will alleviate the troubles and stress of getting everything organized in a new country, so you will have more time and energy to spend on your internship and living abroad. Your time abroad will still be an independent and memorable one, but we are here to guide you to a safe, healthy and comfortable experience before, during, and after your adventure.

Your program fee includes your customized volunteer placement, comfortable, clean, and safe accommodations with all meals, comprehensive international traveler's health insurance, orientation, training, cultural activities and excursions, and all of the administrative and logistical costs to set up your placement in the States and Cambodia. **Cultural Embrace** also pro-rates the expenses for marketing, advertising, and site visits/communication among all of our programs within our fees.

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@culturalembrace.com or you can call us at 1-512-469-9089 or 1-888-214-8570 (US/Canada toll-free)

*Discover the Similarities. . .
Share the Differences. . .*

◆ **CULTURAL EMBRACE** ◆ 7201 Bill Hughes Road ◆ Austin, Texas 78745 USA ◆
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