



Information about Cambodia

Money

US dollars and Khmer Riel are both used in Cambodia. Riel cannot be purchased outside of Cambodia. Exchange rate is approximately 4,000 Riel = 1 Dollar.

When receiving US dollars be sure that the bills are in very good condition, they will not be accepted by merchants otherwise. They might even be difficult to exchange in a bank. Keep any dollar bills you have in good condition, do not fold them as they are then unlikely to be accepted in shops.

Fake dollars (50 and 100 dollar bills) are readily available for purchase in many shops. They are used in ceremonies and festivals. They sometimes find their way into general circulation. Be very careful. If you use an ATM, exchange large bills inside the bank immediately, or request Riel instead.

In rural Cambodia, including Kratie, US currency is generally avoided, unless in hotels and other tourist locations. It is better to exchange dollars for riel whenever possible. In the Kratie area, specially in the markets, small denominations of riel are required.

We accept only riel for volunteer payment and at our shop.

Visa

The system in Cambodia is that a “visa on arrival” is issued at your point of entry. This will be valid for 1 month, but you can apply for an extension immediately. There are many agencies in Phnom Penh that will arrange this for you. To volunteer, you are required to have an “O” (ordinary) visa, not a “T” (tourist) visa. You will be asked ‘O or T’? at immigration. It’s only US\$5 more, and works out cheaper if you extend your visa. The police regularly check foreigners to ensure they have the correct visa.

Clothing

Rural Cambodia is conservative, so modest clothing should be worn. Wearing revealing clothing in the village and in Kratie will make Cambodians feel embarrassed. Please do not show too much skin.

Sunscreen and Mosquito Repellent

We recommend that both of these should be used in the Kratie area. They are difficult to find here though, and even in Phnom Penh, it is not easy to find sunscreen without bleach added. We suggest that you bring these items with you from home.

Vans The most usual form of transport between towns and cities is a van. These generally leave from a central location (Central Market in Phnom Penh) but will sometimes collect you from your hotel (Siem Reap, for example).