Cambodia Tours
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Most months, we have 2 fixed 10-day itineraries (Mixed Ability and Advanced Ability) that will showcase Cambodia's many photographic highlights from an insider's perspective. Our aim is to encourage participants to see Cambodia with a deeper view than the usual tourist experience, and to help them go home with great photographs to prove it. These tours take in many key sights but are also about going beyond the usual guidebook suggestions and getting involved at ground level with the real Cambodia.

After living, working and teaching photography in Cambodia for over 6 years, Nathan has an in-depth knowledge of the country. He will ensure that you will see things that the average tourist will not. He is acutely aware of how some of the best photographic opportunities are unplanned and allows for those special moments. Our reliable Cambodian driver knows what sort of things to look out for: children climbing coconut trees, fishermen catching dinner, locals harvesting rice, farmers ploughing with bullocks, villagers collecting water from the well. When we see things from our bus window, we won't be driving past in the rush to reach our next destination on the list. Instead we will stop, take time to explore the unexpected, and the natural friendly nature of these encounters will leave us richer as a result.

On the road to Kompong Thom
Engage

Nathan has always believed that his photography tours should open up a country by presenting opportunities to engage with local people. One of his principal aims, going far beyond teaching good camera technique, is to show participants that instead of being a barrier between the photographer and subject, the camera can be used as the key to open doors. He aims to show how, when used sympathetically, the camera can help to establish a vital connection between the traveller and the locals they meet.

Nathan speaks a little of the Khmer language, which is always handy, and with his experience, we feel that no-one else is better placed to help fellow photographers get the best out of a relatively short trip to Cambodia.
Tours noted as Mixed Ability will include workshops and the tour will proceed at a slightly gentler pace to allow plenty of time for instruction and post-production assessment. It will begin with 2 days in Phnom Penh then head down south to the lovely, laid-back coastal towns of Kampot and Kep, taking in an exciting boat trip to Cambodia’s oldest Angkorian site on the way. We then make our way up towards Siem Reap and visit a floating village on the Tonle Sap lake before ending with the well-established 4-day tour of the Temples of Angkor.

Tours marked as Advanced Ability will not include any classroom time, but instead will really push creative limits out in the field. The tour starts with the Angkor Temples but offers a different perspective, going out of the way to visit more off-the-beaten track sites, and will include the difficult-to-reach Angkorian Temple of Preah Vihear, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The rest of the trip includes many highlights but will be away from the normal tourist routes. Focus will be on the back waters of the Mekong and will introduce you to rarely-visited Muslim communities. We finish up in Phnom Penh going to key locations, back streets and hidden temples.
The main aim of our tours in Cambodia is to offer itineraries that give an in-depth and exciting insight into the many aspects of life in Cambodia. Every month we try to offer 2 fixed 10-day itineraries built around the already very successful Phnom Penh and Angkor weekend tours. The mid-week days and nights are spent in less visited rural provinces.

If you’re interested in the Mixed Ability Tour please see details on page 6.

If you’re interested in the Advanced Ability Tour please see details on page 13.
Mixed Ability Highlights

- 3 Travel Photography Workshops
- Wat Phnom
- Central Market
- Silk Island
- Angkor Bonei Boat Trip
- Kep Crab Market
- Kampot Pepper Plantations
- Phnom Chisor
- Kompong Phluk (Floating Village)
- Ta Phrom
- Angkor Wat, with privileged access to resident monks.
- Angkor Thom, the Big City
- Bayon
- Roluos Group (Pre-Angkorian temples)
- Beng Mealea (off the beaten track)
Mixed Ability Itinerary

Day 1 Phnom Penh - Workshop + Walking Tour
Includes a nice mix of highlights (inc Wat Phnom, Central Market and National Museum) and more back street markets and local temples in the riverside quarter that Nathan knows intimately after living in the area for over 6 years.

Day 2 Phnom Penh - Workshop + Silk Island
Just 6km from Phnom Penh Silk Island is like stepping back 100 years. Famed for its hand woven silk products which are still produced under most homes. Nathan has established many good relationships with the local families on the island who will welcome you into their homes.
Day 3 Takeo/Kep
An exciting boat trip down narrow canals in the dry season or across flooded paddy fields in the rainy season take us to important pre-Angkorian sites of Angkor Borei and Phnom Da and reveals typical river life in Cambodia. We should arrive in Kep in time for great sunset shots and a cold beer in Kep’s famous crab shacks.

Day 4 Kampot
We wake up in Kep early to photograph the fishermen bringing in their overnight catches. After breakfast we set off to explore the salt plains, pepper farms and small fishing villages that we can find just off the main road to Kampot. Kampot is a well preserved French colonel town with a newly renovated riverside promenade which carries a lot of charm and enough photo opportunities to keep us happy until sunset.
Day 5 Phnom Penh
Making our way back up to PP we stop off at the sacred pond of Tonle Om which are often graced with endless Lotus flowers and locals harvesting them in hand dug out canoes. We then visit one of Cambodia’s most spectacular hill top Angkorian period temples at Phnom Chisor. Overnight in PP.

Day 6 Kompong Phluk - Floating village
It’s a fairly long drive from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap but luckily there is plenty to see on the way. We will stop off at the famous spider village of Skuon and take a scenic lunch next to a pretty lake and break up the journey even more with a leisurely exploration of Kompong Phluk a floating village and flooded forest right on the edge of the big lake; Tonle Sap.
Day 7 Angkor Temples - Workshops + Ta Prohm
Free morning. In the late afternoon we visit Ta Prohm to see the famous tree-smothered ruins.

Day 8 Angkor Temples - Angkor Wat + Angkor Thom
We begin the day with an unforgettable sunrise over Angkor Wat followed by a guided tour through the largest religious building on the planet, often with the help of a few monks known to Nathan. Later in the day we visit awesome Angkor Thom – the ancient city capital of Angkor. Highlights include North Gate, Terrace of the Leper King, Elephant Terrace, royal enclosure, Phimeankas, Bayon, South Gate.
Day 9 Angkor Temples
In the morning we visit Sra Srang with local villagers, Preah Khan with Nathan’s favourite Nun, and Ta Som famous for impossible tree growing out the back gate. In the afternoon we visit the Rolous Group and meet up with some monks that Nathan has become friendly with over the years.

Day 10 Angkor Temples
A morning workshop both highlights the huge advantage of post production technique to digital photography and allows some assessment of your work. In the afternoon we finish off at Beng Mealea a real Indiana Jones experience which never leaves people complaining that they are ‘templed out’.
Advanced Ability Highlights

- Banteay Srei
- Kbal Spean
- Pre Rup
- Ta Phrom
- Angkor Wat, with privileged access to resident monks.
- Angkor Thom, the Big City
- Bayon
- Roluos Group (Pre-Angkorian temples)
- Beng Mealea (off the beaten track)
- Preah Vihear (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
- Ramsar Wetlands
- The Mighty Mekong
- Kratie Fresh Water Dolphins
- Sambor Prei Kuk
- Udong
- Royal Palace
- S21 and The Killing Fields
- Russian Market
- Kompong Chhnang (Floating Village)
Advanced Ability Itinerary

Day 1 Angkor Temples
An early morning start avoids the crowds at Banteay Srei, a temple so finely carved it is suggested that it could only of been carved by the fine hands of a woman. We then make our way up Kabal Spean home to several waterfalls and the unique attraction of a 1000 lingas carved into riverbeds. On the way back we stop off at the interesting landmine museum and several other temples of interest.

Day 2 Angkor Temples - Angkor Wat + Angkor Thom
We begin the day with an unforgettable sunrise over Angkor Wat followed with a guided tour through the largest religious building on the planet, often with the help of a few monks known to Nathan. Later in the day we visit awesome Angkor Thom – the ancient city capital of Angkor. Highlights include North Gate, Terrace of the Leper King, Elephant Terrace, royal enclosure, Phimeankas, Bayon, South Gate.
Day 3 Angkor Temples
In the morning we visit Sra Srang with local villagers, Preah Khan with my favorite Nun, and Ta Som famous for impossible tree growing out the back gate. In the afternoon we visit the Rolous Group and meet up with some Monks that Nathan has become friendly with over the years.

Day 4 Angkor Temples
In the morning we go off the beaten track to Beng Mealea, an as yet unrestored temple thoroughly invaded by the surrounding jungle. We then continue our road journey to our second UNESCO world heritage site Preah Vihear. A stunning mountain top temple that has to be seen to be believed.
**Day 5 Stung Treng**
We visit waterfalls, rapids and Ramsar wetlands that include a flooded forest area right on the Laos border and arguably Cambodia’s wildest and most beautiful stretch of the Mekong.

**Day 6 Kratie**
Guaranteed fresh water dolphin sightings followed by a late afternoon visit to the peaceful Koh Trong to sample some rural island life in the middle of the Mekong.
Day 7 Kompong Thom
This day is all about it being ‘better to travel than arrive’. It’s hard to put highlights on paper but we often take some of our best pictures on this stretch of road as we pass picturesque Muslim villages, stop for a monks lunch, and then fully indulge ourselves with some of rural Cambodia’s most productive farmlands.

Day 8 Phnom Penh
In the morning we visit Sambor Prei Kuk: Cambodia’s best preserved pre-Angkorian site set amongst the forest. In the afternoon we visit Udong: Cambodia’s most impressive post Angkorian site set amongst hill tops.

On the road to Kompong Thom
Day 9 Phnom Penh
Combination of highlights (inc Royal Palace, S21, Russian Market and the Killing Fields) including backstreets, markets and temples

Day 10 Phnom Penh - Kampong Chnang
Day trip out to Kampong Chhnang where in the morning we take small punts through Cambodia’s largest floating village and in the afternoon we visit families making clay pots amongst sugar palm studded paddy fields.

We encourage you to do the whole tour, as this is the best way to see Cambodia. However, if you do not have enough time available, you can opt to join the trip for any of the additional days. Please contact the office to negotiate arrangements.
Nathan Horton has been a professional photographer for 23 years since graduating with a BA Hons in Film, Photography and Video Arts. He has sold work as an artist, worked as an advertising photographer for some of the world's biggest brands including Nokia and Lux, and also as an editorial photographer for some of London’s premier magazine titles including Elle, The Times Travel section and Food and Travel magazine.

Nathan has travelled extensively in Asia for over 25 years and has made Cambodia his home since 2006. After many years of experience in this field he has managed to fine-tune some very successful itineraries that deliver in-depth photography tours throughout South East Asia. His tours have been highly praised in Trip Advisor, National Geographic Traveller and the Weekend Guardian for exploring Asian culture in deeper, richer and more ethical ways than most.

**Nathan’s Mission**

“After living, working and teaching photography in Asia for over 6 years, I have a unique in-depth knowledge of the countries I visit. I have extensively researched my itineraries and pride myself that my tours don’t just drive straight past fabulous photo opportunities but remain flexible enough to make random stops. We often find ourselves pulling up when we see local people harvesting rice, catching fish, climbing coconut trees etc. What makes my tours different is that I consider it my job to help you engage with the country and its people in a much more natural, friendly way than you might ever have imagined.”
Tuition

The tours noted as Mixed Ability is for photographers wanting to expand their knowledge of travel photography and will help both novice and experienced photographers alike to capture very special images. Uniquely the Mixed Ability tours will include introductory workshops that cover both the technical and ethical issues of travel photography very specifically orientated towards photographing people.

The tours noted as Advanced Ability does not include workshops as most of the teaching is done on location. Nathan constantly works alongside you, to help you understand particular technical challenges, give you artistic inspiration and most importantly lead by example in approaching local people. Time is also put aside to help you develop your post production skills so that you can subtly enhance your pictures thus producing a stunning portfolio of the tour and your future travels.

Rural province
The Group

In Cambodia we will never run a tour with more than 8 photographers. A group of this size is ideal for Nathan and his regular local guides to give everyone the attention they may need. This intimate group size forms a stimulating dynamic where participants can share their experiences with like-minded people, and more often than not, they will leave with new friends. Whether you are a single traveller, or you come with a partner you will find being in a small group who share a common interest a great way to get something extra out of your trip. No more worrying about keeping people waiting whilst you get your shot.
Reviews

Past participants say it all:

I have done two trips with Nathan, one in February 2012 around Cambodia, and another in April 2013 to Burma. Both exceeded expectations in every respect; well organised, didn’t have to worry about transport or accommodations. We somehow arrived at the important places for photography at the right time of day, and often without any, or too many other tourists. Nathan’s guidance shows the fact that he has been living in Phnom Penh for several years and is able to get the best out of the South East Asian environment. I learnt so much, being pushed beyond my comfort zone, but in a very pleasant way. Top marks! Don’t hesitate, have a cool experience and try something new. On top of the scheduled locations there was always something extra happening...

Alison Ryde, Trip Advisor review 2013

“Nathan is awesome. Don’t hesitate. My girlfriend and I just did the 4 day Angkor Wat tour. What can I say? All expectations blown away. If you are considering doing something with Nathan, don’t hesitate. Book it. Four of my most precious travel days ever.”

Jon Bauer, Trip Advisor review 2012

“I booked a tour with Nathan based solely on the reviews here on Trip Advisor - and then wondered how it could possibly live up to the hype. All I can say after completing the tour is that it does - it more than does.”

Trip Advisor review 2012

“A great experience of the “Real Cambodia”’ Based on Nathan’s beautiful portfolio I had high hopes for the trip and the images and experiences on the trip actually exceeded my expectations.”

Flemming Bo Jensen 2011 Professional photographer

Given special mention National Geographic Traveler 2010
Listed as a top ten photography holiday around the world UK Guardian Newspaper Travel Section Sept 2011
Described as ‘comprehensive’ Lonely Planet 2012
Highly recommended Luxe Guide Cambodia and Laos 2012

Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence 2012/2013
Trip Advisor Over 95% 5 Star Reviews - In the top 10% of world wide businesses
How to Book

Please go to Contact on the website where you will find the Tour Request Form. (Just click on the website link at the right hand side of this page). We aim to respond within one working day. Once we receive your enquiry we will check availability and confirm this to you, and also reserve you a place on the tour. We will send you an invoice for the deposit (25% of the tour cost). Once this has been received your place will be fully confirmed. At the moment we can only receive overseas payments via Swift Code. Full details of how to pay will be found on your invoice.
What to Bring

Your best camera, be it a DSLR or an advanced compact with some manual controls. Your lens(es) should cover at least a medium zoom range. If you have them, a wide-angle lens (useful in temples and pagodas) and a longer telephoto lens (good on boat trips) would be useful but not essential. A fast standard lens with aperture of f1.8 or f1.4 is another good option.

- A torch
- A polarising filter
- A tripod
- Plenty of memory cards and a spare battery
- A laptop is not essential but is very useful for backing up the day’s shoot, and also for reviewing what you have taken. We also recommend a portable external hard drive - just in case!
- A rain cover for your camera and one for yourself are recommended, and are essential during the rainy season.
Dates and Prices

Dates:
2013 (10 Days)
27th July - 5th August (Mixed)
9th - 18th August (Advanced)
7th - 16th September (Mixed)
27th September - 6th October (Advanced)
12th - 21st October (Mixed)
9th - 18th November (Mixed)
14th - 23rd December (Mixed)

2014 (10 Days)
4th - 13th January (Mixed)
20th - 29th January (Advanced)
22nd February - 3rd March (Mixed)
12th - 21st April (Mixed)
25th April - 4th May (Advanced)

*More 2014 tour dates will be added shortly. Please contact us for further detail.

Prices:
$1800 - 10 days (including all accommodation)
$200 single day (including 1 nights accommodation)
$170 single day (without accommodation)

The Small Print

Inclusions:
- All teaching (3 workshops on mixed tour)
- 2 printed presentations (on mixed tour)
- Photography guidance
- All transport (A/C car or minibus)
- All entrance fees
- Free tripod hire (on request)
- Free water

Exclusions:
- International travel to and from Cambodia (see itinerary for meeting point)
- Any kind of insurance
- Drinks and meals other than specified above under ‘inclusions’
- Other personal expenses, e.g. laundry, phone calls, gifts etc
- Tips for local guide and staff

Payment and Cancellations:
25% deposit must be made at the time of confirmation. Full payment of the remaining 75% is due, in cash (US$), on the first day of the tour. Cancellation of services less than 60 days prior to the start date will result in the deposit being retained. However, this may be transferred to another tour date (minus any costs incurred by Nathan Horton Photography Tours in arranging the changeover).

Insurance:
Please understand that Nathan Horton is not an 'above the line' tour operator. Nathan Horton runs a guided photography tour with third party local service providers.

Your safety is always a top priority but all participation is at your own risk and you should not sign up without accepting that Nathan Horton can accept no liability for damage to equipment or personal injury.

SECURING YOUR OWN INSURANCE IS ALWAYS CONSIDERED A PREREQUISITE FOR ACCEPTANCE ON THIS TOUR, AND PROOF THAT YOU HAVE ARRANGED ADEQUATE INSURANCE WILL HAVE TO BE PROVIDED TO THE OPERATOR IN ADVANCE.

Accommodation:
All accommodation is included in the price of this full 10 day tour. We have gone out our way to research the best value safe, clean and comfortable mid range hotels available on all parts of the tour, but you can opt out or go with one of our upgrade options in Phnom Penh or Siem Reap and we will adjust the tour price accordingly. We are also happy to book you any additional hotel nights either side of the tour. Please indicate any such requests on the Tour Request Form which can be found under Contact.