

ASIAN TRAILS Cambodia

Newsletter No 12 ~ October 2002

Siem Reap / Cambodia, 25th September, 2002

Dear friends and colleagues,

Warm Greetings from Asian Trails Cambodia!

Asian Trails Cambodia is proud to announce a monthly Newsletter as per from now, to make every endeavor to inform you on time with sound information about breathtaking Cambodia!

We are delighted to take this opportunity to up-date you about changes and facts in Cambodia:

Cambodia News:

1 New Visa Point Open, Bringing Total to 8:

A new way to enter Vietnam by car from Phnom Penh to Chau Doc (Vietnam) or vice versa is now possible! The trip from Phnom Penh to Phnom Den (Cambodian border, near Takeo) takes approx. 5hrs (75km paved -and 60km bumpy road) has begun to deliver Cambodian entrance visas since September 15th. Travellers must though hold valid visas when crossing into Vietnam at Nha Bang border (near Chau Doc). This new Cambodian checkpoint brings to 8 the number of points where travellers can be issued visas upon entry.

Bird Sanctuary Considered for Eco-Tourism

The bird sanctuary of Prek Toal, near Siem Reap, could become the country's second most-important tourism site after Angkor Wat, said the president of the National Association of Tourism Enterprises. The sanctuary harbours 225 species of birds, affords spectacular views of the Tonle Sap Lake at sunrise and sunset and offers a glimpse of life in a floating village.

The site now gets occasional visits from Asian Trails guests willing to take a two-hour ride from Siem Reap by motorboat, in co-operation with Osmose Education, Ecotourism and Conservation, who help to preserve the natural and human habitat of the Tonle Sap Lake.

Up-date on Cambodia Flood Report

Steady falling water levels of Mekong River, particularly in Prey Veng, Kompong Cham -and Kratie Province have sort of eased off flooding and the situation in Phnom Penh is back to normal again, though no more flood threats in the capital. Of course, we continue to assess the situation for you in Cambodia and keep you posted with relevant information for your up-date.

Jean-Jacques Annaud with Pathé Film France Shoots Animal Movie in Angkor Wat

Jean-Jacques Annaud is presently shooting his latest animal movie, named "Deux Freres" around Angkor Wat Complex and will finish his work by end of February 2003. 25 highly trained tigers, especially flown-in from all over the world, are the star - "actors" in this fantastic animal fable. For your information: this film-event shall have no direct incidence on ongoing visits of the Angkor Temples, since punctual sequences are shot inside a special built hangar by using man-made artefacts (Styrofoam), representing parts of the temples.

Cambodia Shipping News:

M/V Mekong Express, a recently launched fast boat which successfully operates on Tonle Sap Lake, between Phnom Penh and Siem Reap, shall completely stop its trips as per from 28th October until 30th November included, due to a serious engine problem. During said period, potential guests will be rescheduled on the regular speedboats (please contact us for further information).

M/V Toum Teav/The Traditional Khmer Wooden Boat On Tonle Sap Lake (Phnom Penh-Siem Reap-Phnom Penh)

A new and extraordinary way of cruising quietly between the two most visited cities is the nicely decorated M/V Toum Reav, equipped with 10 cabins (7m2) tiny bathrooms with shower (3m2), a Library salon, a sundeck and an open-air restaurant. Operations between Phnom Penh and Siem Reap v.v. start from October 1st to March 2003, taking 4 days/3 nights (max. 20 passengers), leaving Phnom Penh on Monday and returning to Phnom Penh on Thursday. Other options are their Phnom Penh-Saigon cruise of 7 days/6 nights from October 28, 2002 to Jan. 04, 2003, with 5 fixed dates, leaving Phnom Penh on Monday and returning from Saigon on Monday, as well as a Phnom Penh-Kratie-Phnom Penh cruise for 4 days/3 nights from March to July 2003, leaving every Monday from Phnom Penh and return to Phnom Penh every Sunday.

Airlines News:

Vietnam Airlines (VN): Brand-New Airbus-320 On Siem Reap - Ho Chi Minh City v.v. route:

Vietnam Airlines will introduce a new Airbus-320 rotation (VN848/VN849) between Siem Reap and Ho Chi Minh City v.v., starting 15th November 2002, addressing more seat capacity on this often fully booked evening feeder-flight.

Ho Chi Minh City ~ Siem Reap (daily)

dep: 07.00h	arr: 08.00h	VN 823 ATR-72
dep: 11.30h	arr: 12.45h	VN 827 ATR-72
dep: 13.45h	arr: 15.00h	VN 847 ATR-72
dep: 16.30h	arr: 17.45h	VN 829 ATR-72
dep: 17.30h	arr: 18.45h	VN 849 A320

Siem Reap ~ Ho Chi Minh City (daily)

dep: 08.35h	arr: 09.35h	VN 822 ATR-72
dep: 13.15h	arr: 14.35h	VN 826 ATR-72
dep: 15.30h	arr: 16.50h	VN 846 ATR-72
dep: 18.15h	arr: 19.15h	VN 828 ATR-72
dep: 19.15h	arr: 20.35h	VN 848 A320

Mekong Airlines Gives Up on Siem Reap Route:

Mekong Airlines, Cambodia's newest carrier, has withdrawn its application for flights between Siem Reap and Bangkok, the company said Thursday (19th September). The company had previously announced that it would fly twice a day between the Angkor temples and Thailand's capital, a claim that created controversy as the route is reserved for Bangkok Airways affiliate Siem Reap Airways and the defunct Royal Cambodge. A spokesman said, the route was "too sensitive" and the company had abandoned attempts to get permission to fly it. Mekong Airlines, which has been beset by delays, hopes to begin Phnom Penh-Bangkok and Phnom Penh-Siem Reap service the week of September 30.

Bangkok Airways To Invest In Regional Airports:

Bangkok Airways has announced plans to invest in secondary airport in Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar. The airlines eyes to buy stakes in Siem Reap airport before considering investments in other regional airports. In November the airlines is scheduled to open a third airport at Trat (after Samui and Sukhothai), approx. 90km's west of Koh Kong (Cambodia), opening an ideal way to reach Phnom Penh by overland.

Hotel News in Phnom Penh:

Amanjaya Hotel, ideally located on the famous Sisowath Quay and overlooking the Tonle Sap River, is planning to open its doors by end of October 2002. It will be equipped with 22 rooms (19 Deluxe & 3 Corner-Suites) and is specially designed and furnished to provide luxuries of a first class hotel (French Manager, Mr. Alexandre Babot). All rooms are delicately decorated in Khmer Style and are fully equipped with all necessary amenities, such as a 24hr Butler-service, Internet Hook-up, CD-Player, In-House Cable TV and Balcony with River-view. Obviously one of the first addresses in Phnom Penh, this luxury property responds to a fast growing demand.

Hotel News in Siem Reap:

Apsara Angkor Hotel has announced its definite opening on 15th October 2002 and the assignment of their new General Manager from Canada, Mr. Candido Peruggini, who is already on the spot. The range of rooms includes 122 Deluxe, 8 Suites and 2 Presidential Suite-rooms, as well as 1 Asian -and Western-style food Restaurant, Swimming pool, Banquet -and Conference function rooms, Gym and Massage parlour and an open-air Apsara-Dance Platform. Located on the Airport Road (10min) and 15min away from the Angkor Complex, it enjoys an excellent location.

Pansea Angkor announces the assignment of their new General Manager from France, Mr. Jeoffroy De-Geyer, replacing Mr. Urs Aeberhardt, who was the former G.M. from Switzerland. Asian Trails warmly welcomes Mr. J. De-Geyer and wish him a successful future.

Ecole d'Hotelliere et de Tourisme Paul Dubrule Siem Reap is finally opening its doors on October 14, 2002. The aim of this school is to offer high quality hospitality training that meets both international standards and the needs of the local employers, small, medium and international hotels, travel agents and large tour operators. It offers the best of European training in a friendly and disciplined environment, where students can maximise their educational and personal benefits.

Restaurant News of Siem Reap:

26th October 2002: Official opening of FCC Siem Reap (Foreign Correspondent Club)

Located on the Siem Reap River behind the Royal Residence, FCC Siem Reap has an open feel with views from the terrace overlooking the reflecting pool & garden to the river. Its architecture reflects tradition and era of "beautifying" an old 60's Art Deco style building. Opening times are from 7am until 12pm at night 7 days a week. Capacity of guests is from 1 pax till up to 250 pax, with comfortable seating for out the back Terrace facing the Royal Residence is 50 pax, with an extra 20 pax in comfortable "easy chair" style seats. The Garden Area has a capacity for 120 pax undercover seating, standup function up to 250 pax, as well as a BBQ Area that can be used for both Lunch & Dinner functions. Tom O'Connor from Australia is the Executive Chef

We would like to inform you that our offices will be closed on October 5th (Saturday) and October 7th (Monday/Bon Pchum Ben Day), as well as October 23rd (Wednesday/The Paris Peace Treaty) and October 30th & 31st (Wednesday & Thursday/The Kings' Birthday). We shall have one person on duty for any assistance in case of an emergency. New reservations and quotations will be replied after these holidays.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued support!

Please do not hesitate to contact us should further assistance be needed.

<http://www.asiantrails.com> and <http://www.asiantrails.com/cambodia/index.htm>

With kindest regards,

Asian Trails Ltd., Cambodia
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