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Please take note of our New email address: asiantrails@online.com.kh

CAMBODIA NEWS

Development project towards Koh Ker temples.

A 35-year contract has been signed last week between the government and a Siem Reap Construction company- Kham Someth Construction- to transform the area of Koh Ker temples into tourist attractions. The investment of \$21 million will serve to rebuilt 105 km road from Phnom Kulen to Koh Ker temples , which is expected to be completed within the next year, and restore the temple area. The temple sites are at three-hour drive from Siem Reap. The development is designed to attract cultural and eco-tourism. The temples will be managed by the Apsara Authority and they will charge 5 to 10 \$ to visit the ruins.

Angkor Pass temple is now needed for Beng Melea visit

Since 21st June, the Beng Melea temples are under the management of Apsara Authority and the Angkor temples pass is now needed to visit the site. Located at 60 km from Siem Reap (3 hrs drive on a paved road except the last 5 km before the temple), it is one of the largest ensembles in the Angkor region, covering 108 hectares and its beauty may be partly derived from the struggle of nature against the stones.

AIRLINES / BOAT NEWS

Bangkok Airways recovers its normal schedule from October 2003

Flight Schedules for Bangkok Airways and Siem Reap Airways International will resume its normal schedule on 2 October 2003 and it will be as follows:

2 Oct 03-30 March 04: BKK/LPQ/DAD/REP/BKK - Operate on day 2, 4, 6

1 Dec 03- 30 March 04: BKK/THS/LPQ/DAD/REP/BKK - Operate on day 1, 3, 5, 7.

The Mekong Express Boat will reoperate in 1 month

The Mekong Express Boat between Phnom Penh/Siem Reap - v/v should reoperate in August 2003 with a new engine. The official date of opening will be confirmed by the company Mid-July. We will keep you inform in due time.

HOTELS & RESTAURANTS NEWS

News from Sihanoukville

We went for 2 days in Sihanoukville to inspect the hotels. Our first impression is that many hotel development projects are planned at the beach front such as a Golf & Beach Resort at O' Chheuteal Beach, an hotel-casino near Victory Beach under construction.

*** The new Sokha Beach Hotel**

The Sokha Beach Hotel & Resort is located on its own unspoiled private beach - the Sokha Beach - The hotel is a Four Stars International standard Resort featuring 180 stylishly appointed rooms and suites with modern amenities (90 rooms with a scenic, panoramic ocean view and 90 rooms with lush, green garden view), a large swimming pool, a huge fitness center with Jacuzzi, Sauna, Steam bath, massage), tennis court, bars and restaurants facing. 4 Bungalows for family are nestled in the garden facing the private beach. Opening scheduled for 15th August 2003.

*** Sihanoukville's Independence Hotel will recover**

Standing proud on a promontory overlooking the Gulf of Thailand, the Independence Hotel has for 40 years mirrored the history of the country. First a beacon of modernity, it became a Khmer Rouge hideout, a crumbling shelter for Untac forces and now a shuttered relic.

With \$35 million face-lift the Independence Hotel located on Independence Beach will be dragged into the 21st century. It shall keep its original features and a 60-meter tower crowned by a circular, glass-walled coffee shop will be added as well as an open lobby-lounge, a new pool and a 200 meter private beach. The renovations are due to be completed at the end of the year for an opening in February 2004. We will keep you informed.

*** Jasmine Hotel: our new selection**

Jasmine hotel is located on Occheuteal Beach Street facing the beach at 300 meters from Crystal and Seaside Hotel. This 2 storey hotel comes with 50 rooms well appointed, 1 restaurant, 1 conference room and is in terms of price and comfort in the same category of the 2 hotels mentioned below.

*** Chez Claude: extension of bungalows**

Nestled on the top of the hill facing the Sokha Beach, "Chez Claude" comes now with a total of 7 bungalows with their own private terrace. The restaurant is still offering good choice of Asian and European foods.

We wish you a nice summer for those who are going on holidays and 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
Line for Jacques Guichandut