

Reading Ex. > Angkor Wat: Hard as a Stone

Siem Reap is a small town near the world-famous temple of Angkor Wat. The town is beautiful and worth exploring, with some fine examples of Khmer and French colonial architecture set among the more modern developments. Nowadays, visitors are coming often, using it as a base for visits to its nearby temples.

A Carved City

From the 9th to the 14th centuries, when Europe was still fighting of the Dark Ages, the Cambodian Empire of Angkor covered most of present-day Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and Thailand. The heart of this empire during the 12th century was the ancient capital of Angkor Thom, near present day Siem Reap, the site of the world's largest temple complexes, which were rediscovered in 1861. This spectacular city was built over 30 years under the reign of King Suryavarman II (1113-1150). The area covers about 400 square kilometres and is full of the finest examples of Khmer art and architecture. Tourists are always amazed at the size of the place.

In Angkor Wat you will find more than 100 stone monuments and temple buildings, each of which contains numerous statues, sculptures and reliefs that have aged extremely little over the last 800 years. They look like fantastic. To see the whole thing can take several days. The most important temples to visit in the area are Angkor Wat, especially at sunrise or sunset; Angkor Thom, the remains of the capital; Ta Prohm, a palace overgrown by jungle; and Bayon, a distinctive temple with serene and smiling stone faces of Brahma on the many towers around it.

Getting a visa

Visas are required (with no exception) to enter Cambodia. You can obtain one on arrival at Siem Reap International Airport for US\$20, and 1 passport photo is required per person. You will also need another passport photo for the Angkor Temple Entrance Pass. Please ensure you take comfortable walking shoes, light clothing and plenty of water to drink as it is very hot there all the year. The most commonly accepted currency in Cambodia is the US dollar.

Based on the previous article, decide if the following statements are TRUE (T) or FALSE (F).

| | TRUE | FALSE |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. Siem Reap is a tourist destination for its temples. | | |
| 2. European influence is observed in its local architecture. | | |
| 3. Siem Reap was remarkably important after its rediscovery in 1861. | | |
| 4. Angkor Wat was recognized as the capital of the Cambodian empire. | | |
| 5. Visitors are required to give two photos to get an entrance pass. | | |
| 6. The stonework of Angkor Wat is preserved in good condition today. | | |
| 7. A visit of these works can take tourists a couple of days. | | |
| 8. According to the text, there are four must-visit temples in Siem Reap. | | |
| 9. Cambodia's climate is unpredictable during the year. | | |
| 10. Any foreigner who visits Cambodia is required to get a visa. | | |
| 11. The Cambodian Empire ruled for nearly seven centuries in Asia. | | |
| 12. It took nearly three decades to build the ancient capital. | | |



Text taken and adapted from <https://www.usingenglish.com/comprehension/7.html>

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