

# 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 the 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.

## 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.

(Taken and adapted from

<https://www.usingenglish.com/comprehension/7.html>)

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

|                                                                                | TRUE | FALSE |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------|
| 1. Most people visit Siem Reap because of its sacred places.                   |      |       |
| 2. European influence is observed in the local architecture.                   |      |       |
| 3. The Cambodian Empire ruled for nearly seven centuries in Asia.              |      |       |
| 4. Angkor Wat was recognized as the capital of the Cambodian empire.           |      |       |
| 5. It took less than three decades to build the ancient capital of the empire. |      |       |
| 6. The stonework of Angkor Wat is preserved in good condition today.           |      |       |
| 7. A visit of these places can take tourists a couple of days.                 |      |       |
| 8. Any person who enters Cambodia must pay a visa and a passport.              |      |       |
| 9. Cambodia's weather changes little during the year.                          |      |       |
| 10. The only accepted currency is the US dollar.                               |      |       |

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