

Indochina: Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos

Images Left Behind

Siem Reap, Cambodia

December 2, 2017

Standing on the balcony of our room at 5:00am, the Saigon morning ritual begins with 7 million motorbikes attacking the concourses of the city, moving as a fiery red dragon, with its crimson taillights leaving notice of its supremacy of the thoroughfares of Saigon. We ride the dragon's tail to the airport, moving through the chaos of the perpetual rush-hour for our flight to *Kampuchea*, known to the western world as Cambodia. Our destination today is Siem Reap, the gateway to the cities with Temples Angkor Thom and Angkor Wat, the former capital of the Khmer Empire city of Vishnu.

We boarded Vietnam Airlines Flight 903 to Siem Reap, Cambodia. After a one-hour flight, we touched down on the tarmac, exiting through the front cabin door to face the merciless dampness of the Cambodian heat. Moving us to the Immigration terminal in minibus ovens, we faced the onslaught of foreign travelers and the task ahead to secure Cambodia visas. Having the correct visa documents always ensures a smooth transition to the Land

of the Khmer. We were issued our visas at cost of \$35/visa, a better deal than Vietnam's visa fee of \$135/person.

After securing our visas, we were met by our Khmer guide, Mr. Kimthay Sieng, whose survival story starts with the defeat of the American-backed Army of Cambodian of President Lol Nol in 1975 and the rise of the Khmer Rouge Communist Army of Pol Pot. During our ride from the airport to the Angkor Century Hotel, we learned a little of his life under the Khmer Rouge regime and his rescue by the Vietnamese Army in 1979.

Photos:





Angkor Thom









Don't Touch the Monk



Temple Family Workers – Siem Reap, Cambodia



Thai Massage Specialist – Rany Kuch - Siem Reap



