

# Country Profile – Cambodia



Cambodia is located in the southeastern Part of the Indochina Peninsula



The Cambodian flag is the only in the world to feature a building

Tailored for Education has been working in Cambodia since 2012 with Catholic Relief Services. We visited CRS and several schools in the spring of 2014. It is both the furthest away and warmest place we have traveled to!

## Cool Country Facts

1. Angkor Wat is the heart and soul of Cambodia. The world heritage-listed site was built in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century and is the biggest religious complex on the planet. See below for some of its carvings.
2. Cambodia's New Year's celebrations (called Choul Chnam Thmey in Khmer) is held in mid-April each year and marks the end of the traditional harvest season. This is the biggest celebration of the year in Cambodia.
3. While Cambodians are renowned for cooking up creepy crawlies such as crickets, ants and even tarantulas, most people eat fish, vegetables and rice as part of their daily diet.
4. You'll find the largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia. The Tonle Sap provides sustenance to nearly half of Cambodia's crops and is a major source for fishing. The amazing thing is that large parts regenerate during the wet season when the monsoon rain falls and floods the central area between Siem Reap and Phnom Penh.
5. There has never been a McDonald's in Cambodia. However, they do have a Burger King, KFC and their own McDonalds equivalent called: "Lucky Burger".
6. Birthdays are not traditionally celebrated. Some older people may not even know their exact birth date and only recognize their birthday season.
7. The average age of the population is under 15 years old and 60% is under 30.
8. A person's head is considered the highest part of their body, almost sacred, and should never be touched, even if it is done in a kind and loving manner. While a person's head is sacred and respected, the underside of a person's foot is not. Pointing the sole of your foot at someone, or something, is considered very disrespectful.



## Translations – Khmer is the official language in Cambodia

**welcome** – saumosvakom (ស្នូមស្នូន័កមន៍)

**hello** – suostei (ស្នូស្នូតើ)

**goodbye** – leahaey (លាហាយើយ)

**how are you?** – anak sokhasabbay te (អ្នកស្រីស្រីស្រីយាយទេ)

**school** – sala (សាលា)

**uniform** – ekasanthan (ឯកសណ្ឋប័ន)

**thank you** – saum arkoun (ស្នូមអរគុណ)

**backpack** – sa kadau (សាក័ន័ដូ)

**shirt** – av (អាវ)

**pants** – khao (ខោ)