

CAMBODIA: GREEN TRANSPORT GUIDE FOR TRAVELERS

Welcome to Cambodia! From the vast temple ruins of Angkor Archaeological Park to the busy streets of Phnom Penh and the coastal beaches of Koh Rong, how you choose to travel shapes the environment.

This guide ranks Cambodia's transportation options from most sustainable (lowest carbon footprint) to least sustainable, helping you make eco-conscious travel choices.

GREEN OPTIONS: LOW-IMPACT & CARBON-FREE

These options produce zero or near-zero carbon emissions per passenger. They are the best choices for the environment and offer the most immersive ways to experience Cambodia's heritage.

1. Walking & Cycling

Sustainability Rating: Excellent (Zero Emission)

Where to Use: Highly recommended inside the Angkor Archaeological Park (Siem Reap), Silk Island (Koh Dach), and riverside paths in Phnom Penh.

Why It Matters: Zero carbon emissions. Crucially, cycling and walking protect ancient sandstone temples from the heavy physical vibrations, soot, and acidic exhausts generated by motorized vehicles, which accelerate the decay of ancient carvings.

 **Traveler Tip:** Siem Reap is flat and ideal for cycling. You can rent bicycles or join guided cycling tours. Wear light, breathable clothing that still covers shoulders and knees to comply with temple rules.

2. Electric Remarks (e-Tuk-Tuks) & Electric Buggies

Sustainability Rating: Good (Low Emission)

Where to Use: Siem Reap temple tours and Phnom Penh city sightseeing.

Why It Matters: Traditional Remarks (Cambodian Tuk-Tuks) run on fossil fuels (gasoline or LPG). Electric Remarks (e-Tuk-Tuks) operate on clean battery power, producing zero tailpipe emissions, reducing urban smog, and offering a significantly quieter ride.

 **Traveler Tip:** Use local booking apps (like Grab or PassApp) and select electric vehicle options where available.

YELLOW OPTIONS: MEDIUM-IMPACT & SHARED TRANSFERS

These options consolidate multiple passengers into a single vehicle or use public networks, significantly reducing the carbon footprint per person compared to private cars.

1. Passenger Trains (Royal Railway)

Sustainability Rating: Moderate (Eco-Friendly Long Distance)

Where to Use: Traveling from Phnom Penh south to Kampot and Sihanoukville, or northwest to Battambang.

Why It Matters: Traveling by train is one of the most sustainable long-distance transport methods, emitting a fraction of the carbon dioxide compared to flying or driving. It is a slow, relaxed, and scenic way to experience rural Cambodia.

 **Traveler Tip:** Train schedules can be limited (often running primarily on weekends). Check schedules in advance or consult Travel Sense Asia to integrate a scenic train leg into your trip.

2. Shared Express Buses & Minivans

Sustainability Rating: Moderate (Shared Footprint)

Where to Use: Intercity travel (e.g., between Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Sihanoukville, and Battambang).

Why It Matters: Shared minivans (like Ford Transits) and tourist coaches pool travelers together, reducing the number of individual cars on the road and cutting fuel consumption per capita.

 **Traveler Tip:** Choose reputable express minivan companies (like Giant Ibis or Larryta) which are known for safe driving, modern vehicle maintenance, and efficient routing.

3. Shared Ferries & Speedboats

Sustainability Rating: Moderate (Shared Water Transport)

Where to Use: Traveling from Sihanoukville to the Koh Rong islands.

Why It Matters: Shared speedboats and ferry services transport dozens of passengers at once, making them much more fuel-efficient per capita than hiring private long-tail boats or private speedboats.

 **Traveler Tip:** Stick to scheduled tourist ferries. Always wear the life jackets provided, and ensure you do not throw any plastic or trash overboard into Cambodia's marine habitats.

RED OPTIONS: HIGH-IMPACT & INDIVIDUAL TRANSFERS

These options produce high carbon emissions per passenger. Use them only when necessary (due to tight schedules or remote destinations) and consider offset options.

1. Private Gasoline/Diesel Cars & SUVs

Sustainability Rating: High Impact (High Carbon Footprint)

Where to Use: Direct airport transfers, remote provinces (like Mondulkiri or Ratanakiri), or personalized day tours.

Why It Matters: Individual private transfers are carbon-intensive because the vehicle's emissions are split among only a few passengers.

 **Traveler Tip:** Ensure your driver adheres to our No Idling Policy (switching off the engine while waiting at hotel lobbies or temple parking areas to protect monuments from acidic exhausts).

2. Domestic Flights

Sustainability Rating: Very High Impact (Extreme Carbon Footprint)

Where to Use: Traveling between Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, and Sihanoukville.

SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL TO CAMBODIA (INTERNATIONAL ARRIVAL)

International Flights: When flying to Cambodia internationally:

1. **Fly Direct (If available):** Choose direct routes rather than multi-stop layovers, as takeoff and landing produce the highest share of flight emissions.
2. **Pack Light:** Every kilogram saved reduces fuel burn.
3. **Choose Modern Fleets:** We recommend flying with airlines that operate modern, fuel-efficient aircraft and have active carbon reduction commitments.