



COOL DIGS

Suite retreat

Heritage Suites Hotel in Siem Reap provides a comfortable respite from the heat and hubbub of the city



When in Siem Reap, traipsing around the Angkor temple complex in the unforgiving heat and negotiating the crowds on Pub Street can make you feel decidedly worn out. Where you make your base is therefore essential — ideally, you want to rest your head at somewhere that's peaceful, plush and pampering.

Thankfully, our recent stay at Heritage Suites Hotel checked all of these boxes. Located off a tiny side street and set in a colonial-style villa that's surrounded by tropical walled gardens, this boutique retreat feels a world away from the crowds — perfect for unwinding after a long day of sightseeing.

The 75m² Bungalow Suites here are an exercise in luxury, with floor-to-ceiling windows and perks such as steam rooms, free-standing bathtubs and even outdoor showers in private gardens. The newly refurbished 30m² Classic Rooms aren't too shabby, either, with amenities such as flat-screen televisions and sound systems.

Communal facilities include a saltwater pool and a stylish spa with both singles' and couples' treatment rooms.

In spite of its modern trappings, the hotel provides guests with a strong sense of place. All rooms and suites are decked out in furniture hand-crafted by local artisans, while the artworks that adorn the walls are labors of love by Cambodian artist Lim Muy Theam. Bath amenities are locally sourced, too, from homegrown spa brand Bodia Nature.

Hungry? In-house Heritage Restaurant serves up Khmer and Western dishes, as well as multi-course menus for dinner. For other dining options, the city center is a mere five-minute tuk tuk ride away — though we suspect that with such sumptuous surroundings, you might not want to leave the hotel at all.



NEW RELEASE

Insider Tips

Heritage Suites Hotel's general manager, Jam Nsouli, recommends things to see and do in Siem Reap beyond Angkor Wat.

Visit lesser-known temples

Check out the shrines of Preah Ang Chek and Preah Ang Chorm (National Route 6), dedicated to two Angkorian princesses, and Ya Tep (National Route 6), which pays homage to a neak-ta, or a powerful spirit connected to a particular area. Both shrines are popular among locals, especially newlyweds, who visit them with heartfelt prayers for health and prosperity.

Give back to the community

Have lunch at the Sala Bai Hotel & Restaurant School (Wat Svay, Tonle Sap Rd; salabai.com), which offers vocational training to more than 100 disadvantaged youths.

For one-of-a-kind souvenirs, check out local outfit Ammo (ammojewelry.com), which fashions contemporary jewelry out of recycled bullet casings. The social business also provides apprenticeships to disadvantaged youths in fields such as design and marketing.

Admire the Angkorian sunset

Formerly an ablution pool, the waters of Srah Srang offer beautiful reflections of the sunset.