

The background of the cover is a photograph of a traditional Cambodian stone guardian lion (Singha) in the foreground, with its mouth open in a roar. Behind the lion is a dense cluster of bright pink bougainvillea flowers. The scene is set against a dark, ornate wooden door and a red brick wall.

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**THIS  
EDITION:  
Images of  
Cambodia**

**Vol. 26  
October  
2018**



# WANDER to WONDER

by MARTINA NICOLLS



**The world will never starve for wonder, but only for want of wonder.  
G.K. Chesterson**

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## editor's note

*Welcome to the 26<sup>th</sup> edition of WANDER to WONDER*

This edition of Wander to Wonder focuses on Cambodia.

Until next edition, with another theme,

*Martina*

MARTINA NICOLLS

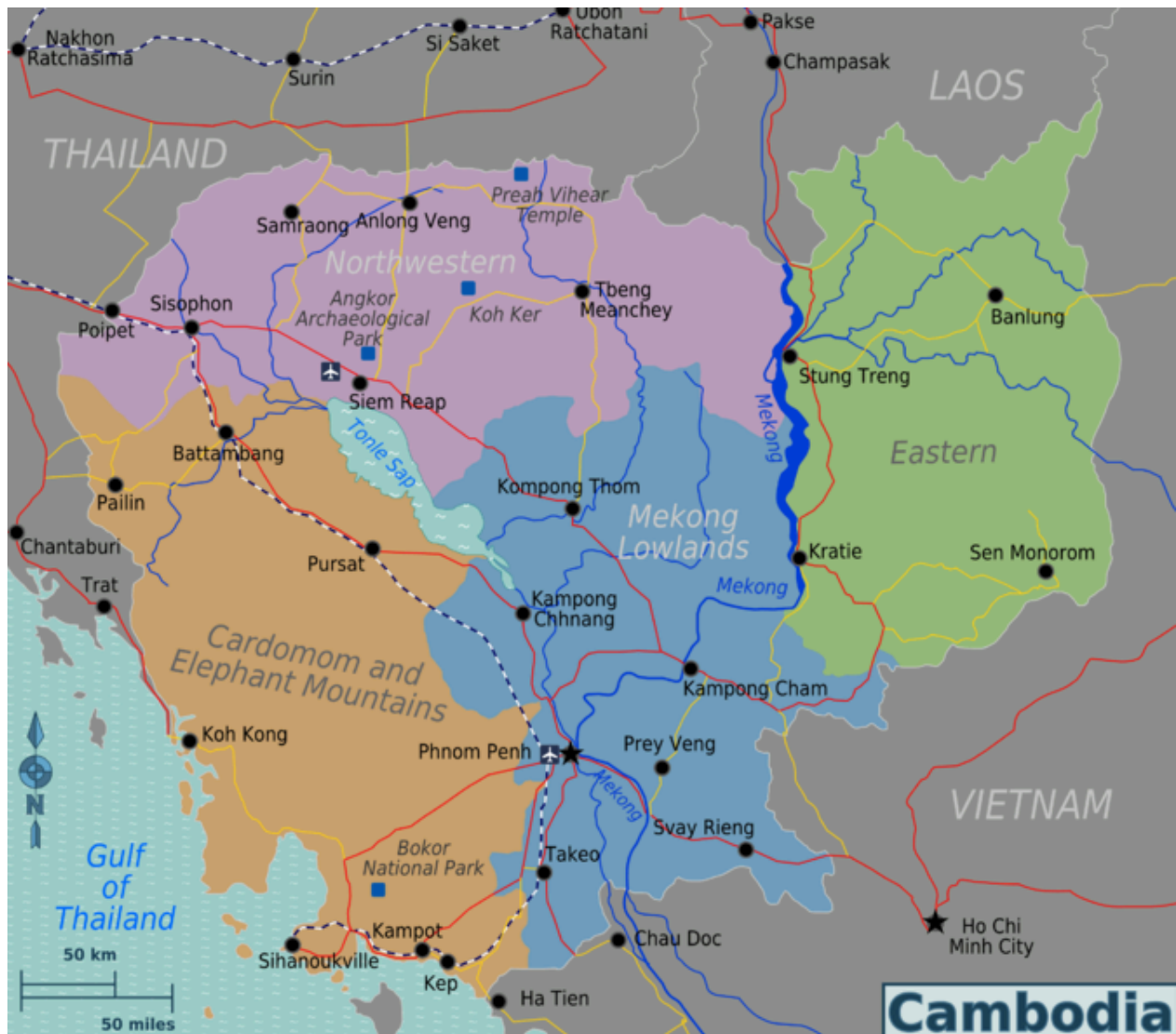








## map





## cambodia

The Kingdom of Cambodia is located in the southeast of the Indochina peninsula. To the north and west of Cambodia is Thailand, with Laos to the northeast. To the south and east is Vietnam.

Its capital is Phnom Penh. It has 25 provinces. Battambang is the country's fourth largest city and Siem Reap is its fifth largest city.

The country is known for its traditional scarves, particularly silk scarves; ceramics; soap; candles; spices; wood carvings; silverplating; lacquer goods; and painted bottles.

Cambodia is influenced by Buddhism and Hinduism, with 97% of the population recognized as buddhist. It is the home of Angkor Wat, near Siem Reap, the temple complex and one of the largest religious monuments in the world.

Cambodia gained independence from France on 9 November 1953, after Cambodia was a protectorate of France from 1867.

The Khmer Rouge took power in 1975, led by Pol Pot, who instigated a communist regime. Pol Pot died in 1998. Millions were killed under his regime, leading to the Killing Fields, and many people fled to Thailand and elsewhere.

In 1978 the Vietnamese troops invaded Cambodia. The Paris Comprehensive Peace Settlement was established in 1991 and the United Nations was given mandate to enforce a ceasefire. In 1993, Norodom Sihanouk became King of Cambodia.

Cambodia has a diverse ecosystem, with the Cardamom Mountain rain forests, the Central Indochina dry forest, the Southeast Indochina dry evergreen forest, the Southern Annamite Range tropical forest, Tonle Sap swamp forest, and the Tonle Sap-Mekong peat swamp forest.















# national museum of phnom penh

The National Museum of Phnom Penh was established in 1920 to preserve the treasures of Cambodia. Unlike museums around the world, the National Museum of Phnom Penh's collection is divided into four main categories: (1) stone, (2) metal, (3) wood, and (4) ceramics.

























































## tsubasa bridge, neak loeung

Tsubasa Bridge is a suspension bridge across the Mekong River at Neak Loeung in Cambodia. The Japanese-funded bridge was opened in April 2016, coinciding with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between Cambodia and Japan, and the formation of an ASEAN Economic Community.

Neak Loeung is in Kandal Province, about 60 kilometres east of the capital Phnom Penh.

The suspension bridge is 2,215 metres long and is the longest bridge in Cambodia. It replaces the boats and ferries that crossed the river, and links Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam with Bangkok in Thailand, via Phnom Penh in Cambodia.

























## the author: Martina Nicolls

I am an author and humanitarian aid consultant with over 30 years' experience in the management, implementation, and evaluation of international aid development projects, particularly in post-conflict environments and countries with transitional governments, such as Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Darfur, Afghanistan, Kashmir, Pakistan, Iraq, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Georgia, Kosovo, Rwanda, and Sri Lanka, and also Mauritius, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia – and others. I provide technical advice on areas such as peace-building and conflict mitigation, education, poverty reduction, human rights, child labour, data quality and financing models.

But mostly I am a wanderer. Wherever I am and wherever I go, I take photographs and I write. My books include:

Similar but Different in the Animal Kingdom (2017)  
A Mongolian Lament (2015)  
The Komodo Verses (2012)

Liberia's Deadeast Ends (2012)  
Bardot's Comet (2011)  
Kashmir on a Knife-Edge (2010)  
The Sudan Curse (2009)

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