

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 35th edition of WANDER to WONDER

This edition of Wander to Wonder focuses on the capital of Cambodia, Phnom Penh.

Until next edition, with another theme,

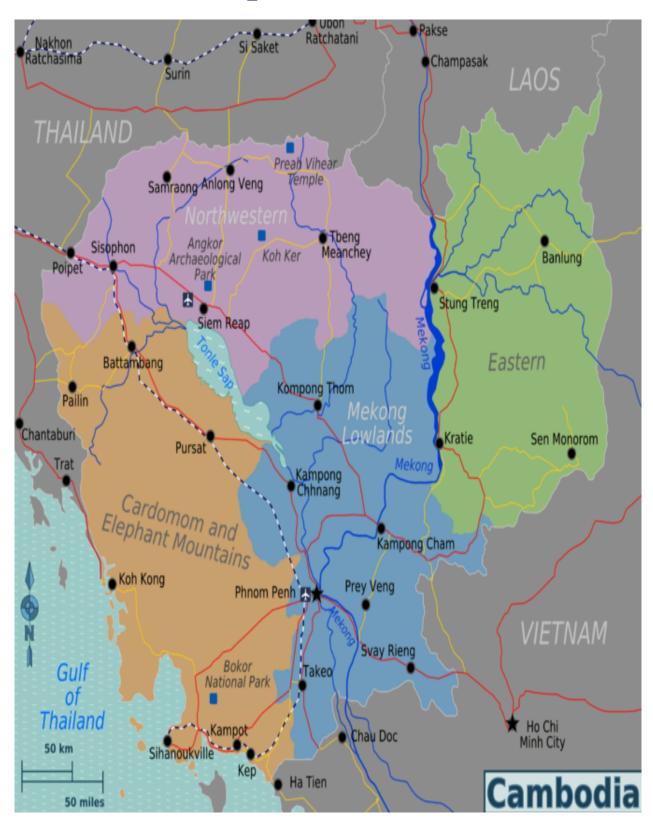
Martina

MARTINA NICOLLS

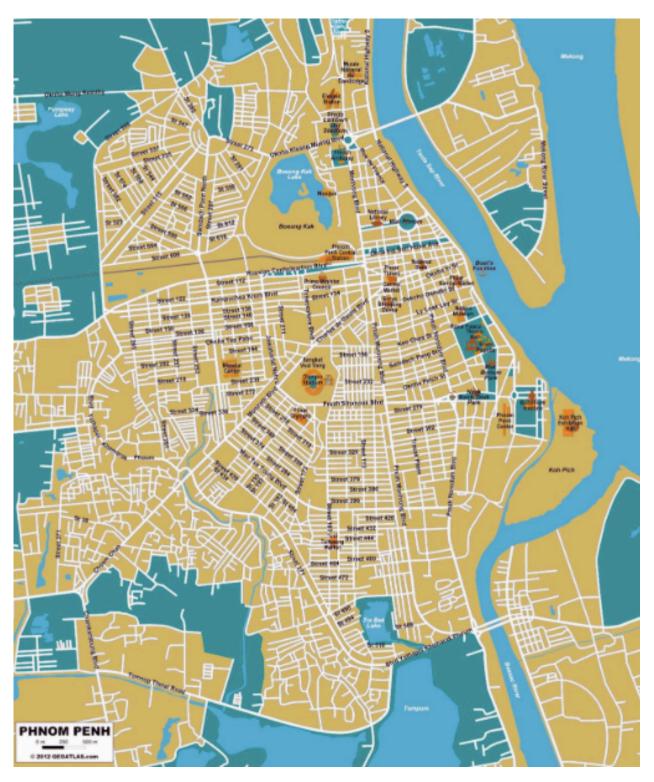




map - cambodia



map – phnom penh



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. It has 25 provinces.

Its capital is Phnom Penh.

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

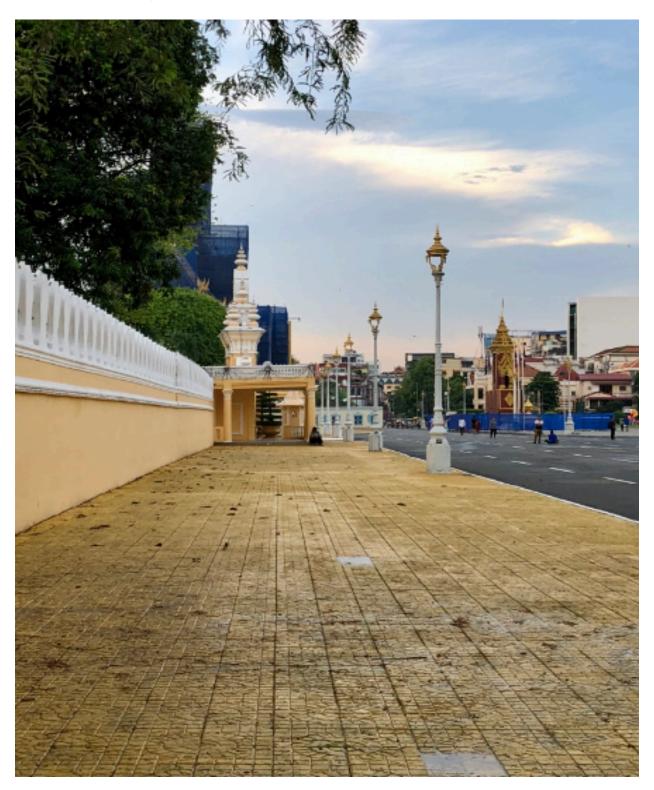
The country is influenced by Buddhism and Hinduism, with 97% of the population recognized as Buddhist.

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

It 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.





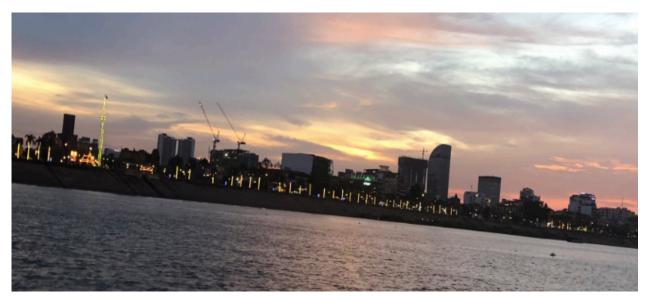


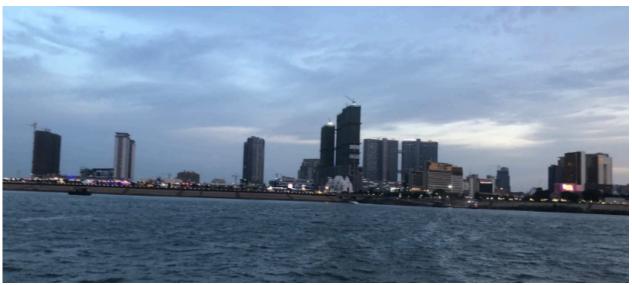
phnom penh

In the 1920s, Phnom Penh was considered the "Pearl of Asia" for its interesting architecture and location at the confluence of three rivers – the Tonle Sap, the Mekong, and the Bassac.

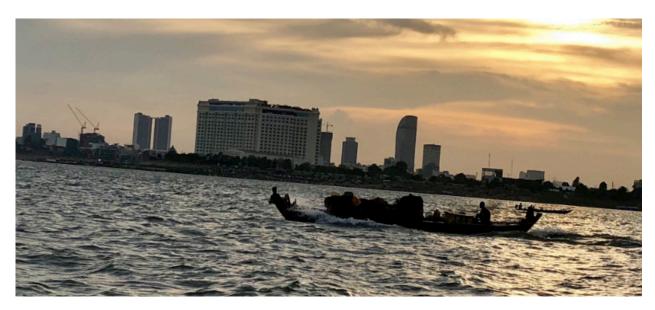
Phnom Penh was founded in 1372, and established as the capital city in 1432. Previously the capital of Cambodia was at Angkor, near Siem Reap, 350 kilometres north of Phnom Penh). It was the capital for 73 years from 1432 to 1505, after which the capital moved around the country. In 1866, under King Norodom I (1860-1904) it became the permanent capital. Today it has a population of 1.5 million.











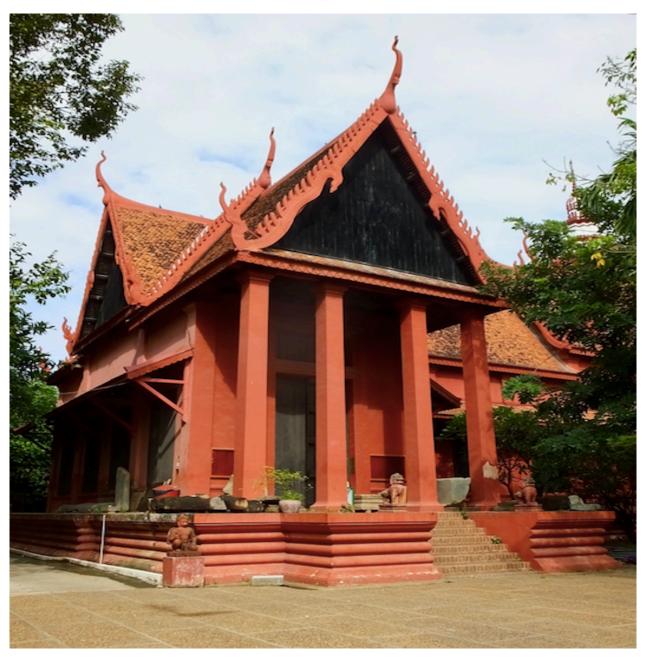


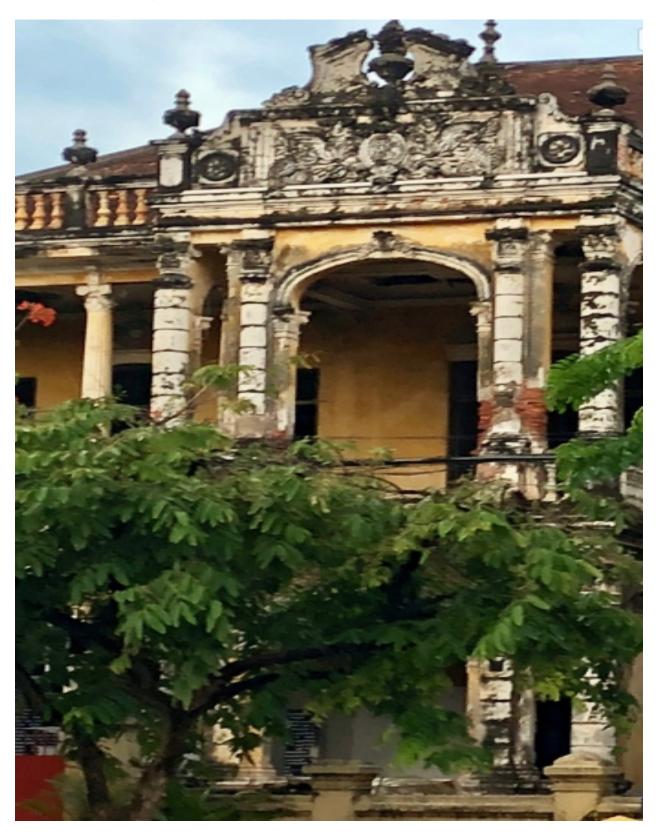


national museum of phnom penh

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.







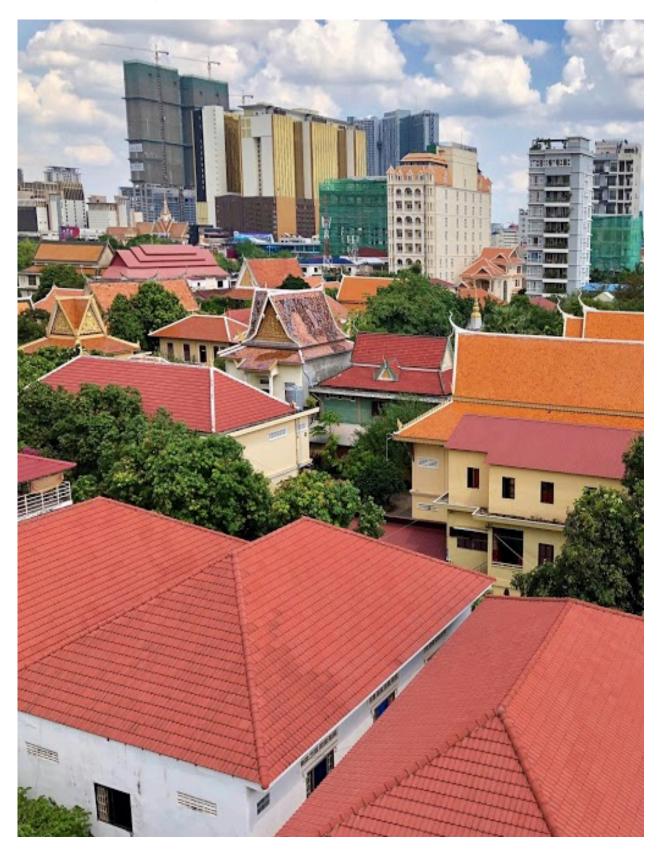


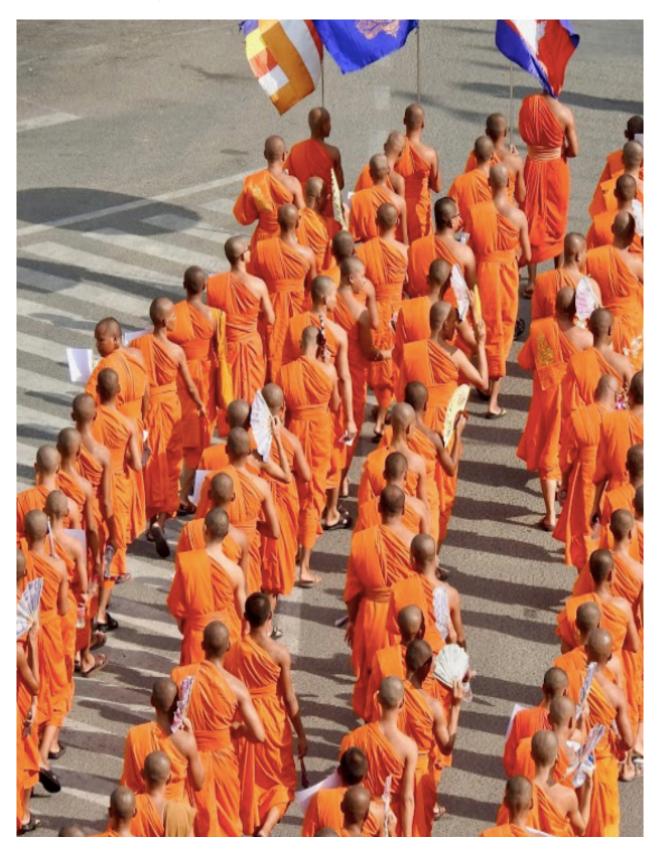


















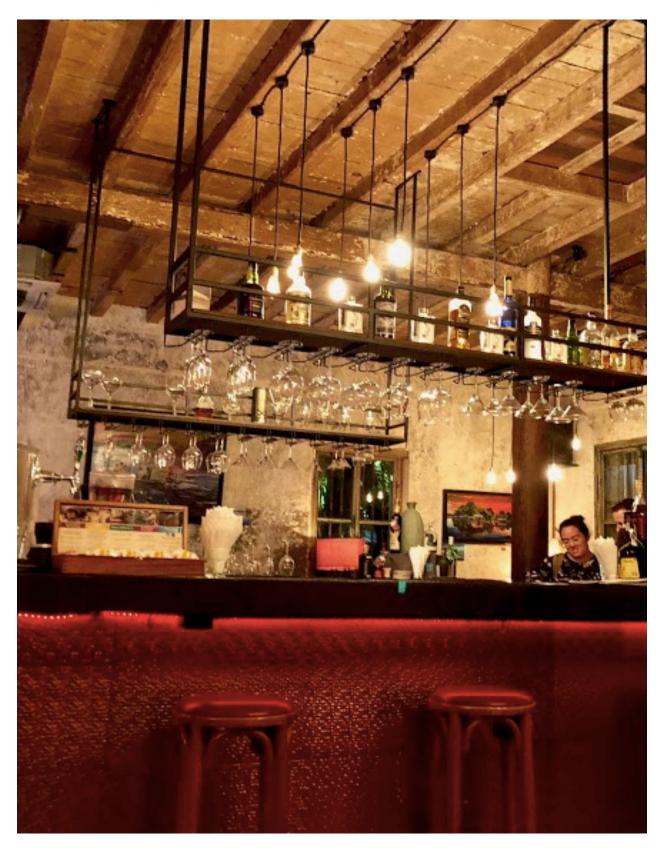






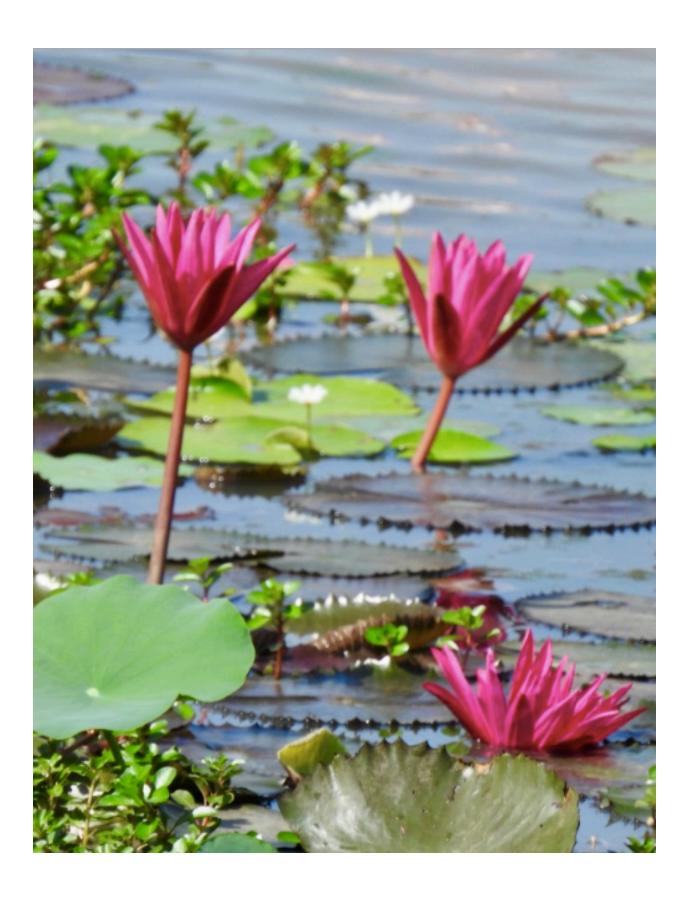












the author: Martina Nicolls

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

MARTINA NICOLLS

martina@iimetro.com.au

http://www.martinanicolls.net

http://martinasblogs.blogspot.com

https://www.facebook.com/Martina-Nicolls-მარტინა-ნიკოლსი-1450496988529988/timeline/





