

# Cambodia Marine Conservation and Diving

*Live in a local island community, learn to scuba dive, and take part in marine research and conservation as well as community development and education.*

Cambodian history is so unique and exotic that people from all around the world visited it in order to discover its astonishing combination of dramatic landscapes, captivating cultural and historical heritage. Cambodians still face significant challenges as the population grows and society diversifies: lack of basic services such as education, infrastructure and healthcare, along with limited job prospects are common difficulties managed by Khmer people.

As you explore the exotic seascape around the island you will be getting involved in a real, ongoing conservation project. You will be helping to discover and chart the health of the coral, record populations of fish, and other marine life such as seahorses, and survey the huge diversity of inter-tidal animals - from tiny hermit crabs to pastel-hued anemones. On shore you'll learn about the activities of the traditional island fishermen, as well as discovering and reporting which marine organisms are being sustainably harvested and which are being dangerously depleted.

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Contribute to the monitoring & conservation marine wildlife in Asia
- Coral nursery maintenance
- Beach and reef cleanups

## PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- Intermediate level of English
- Minimum age of 18 years
- Cover letter

## FAST FACTS

<b>Location</b>	Cambodia
<b>Activities</b>	Beach clean-ups Scuba diving Data Collection Snorkel & Fish variation surveys Coral damage mapping Environmental awareness raising Teaching in the local village

<b>Transport</b>	Airport pick-up available at additional cost
<b>Accommodation</b>	Volunteer house

## **WHAT DOES THE PROJECT DO?**

The Cambodia Marine Conservation & Diving project aims to better understand the conservation status of Koh Rong Samloem, both marine and terrestrial, and to assist in raising awareness within local communities about environmental conservation issues. This will hopefully enable communities to lead the conservation and management of the ecosystems on which their livelihoods depend.

Activities will vary depending on the time of year and current priorities, but you could also be conducting snorkel surveys of reef areas, including mapping the health of the reefs. We also identify patterns of resource use, and work with the local community to support environmentally responsible and sustainable development.

The island itself is little studied, but with recent Government backing to promote conservation and research, the local people are keen to be involved in protecting their biodiversity, making this a perfect location for both research and practical conservation activities. You will have the opportunity to get involved in a wide range of conservation and community development initiatives, contributing towards the future protection of this incredible island and its people.

## **WHAT WILL I BE DOING?**

The project incorporates a number of different elements, all of which combine to not only give you an insight into the workings of the local community and economy, but also lend a hand in protecting rapidly diminishing species. The aim is to provide local stakeholders, research organisations and government bodies with the information they need to design and implement management plans for the future protection of key marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

Throughout your time on the island, between the fish ID lectures and daily island life, you will have the opportunity to get involved within a wide range of activities to support the goals of the project which may include beach clean-ups, snorkel surveys and coral damage mapping.

To gather the research data you will be snorkelling the reefs to locate and map them and to study their various wildlife communities. You will also explore and record the organisms that inhabit the inter-tidal zones and the island's inland areas. To do this you will deploy a wide range of newly learned research skills and scientific techniques which may include: underwater census of reef and commercial fish, and assessment of coral cover to determine the extent of coral damage in shallow water areas. You might record observations of the feeding habits and behaviour patterns of a range of marine and terrestrial life. You may even get to study the impact of fishing on the coral reefs or report the effects of global warming on marine communities.

To participate in the scuba diving project work you will need to be qualified to Advanced Open Water or equivalent, with training available in-country at the project site. Please see the extended project cost information for prices for dive training in the warm tropical seas of Cambodia! Once you are a trained diver you will start to take part in our variety of marine conservation programs. A key marine life survey is our seahorse survey which is conducted at a local site. The collected data is provided

to the Cambodian Government, aiming to enhance the establishment of a Marine Protected Area in the local Koh Rong archipelago.

## **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I ARRIVE?**

We recommend that you arrive in Phnom Penh on Saturday or Sunday morning, before making your way to Sihanoukville for the night. This will mean you'll be able to take the Monday morning ferry to the island. Your Volunteer Coordinator will be able to provide you with advice as to how to make your own way to the Sihanoukville.

## **WHERE WILL I BE STAYING?**

Volunteers stay in the volunteer house on the office site of our local partner organisation. There are shared living spaces, tea and coffee facilities and drinking water available and laundry services can be arranged for a small cost.

## **WHAT WILL I BE EATING?**

You will receive three meals a day, consisting of basic local Khmer cuisine, and vegetarian diets can be catered for. This gives you the chance to try out dishes such as delicately spiced curries, fresh local market produce, and delicious meat, fish and vegetables. Bottled water will also be provided.

## **COSTS**

2 weeks	US\$ 1,395
3 weeks	US\$ 1,595
4 weeks	US\$ 2,095
Extra week	US\$ 495
OW+AOW	US\$ 995

PADI Open Water and Advanced Open Water training US\$986

PADI Advanced Open Water training US\$586

## **DEPARTURE DATES**

Project start day is every Monday. Please arrive in Phnom Penh on the Saturday or Sunday before your project start date to be able to catch the ferry to the project site on Monday.

## **DURATION**

From 2 to 10 weeks.

## **WHAT'S INCLUDED**

## **Before you go**

- Pre-departure support
- Equipment advice
- Discounted medical kit
- Free Frontier t-shirt (UK only)

## **In-country**

- Three meals a day
- Accommodation
- Local orientation
- Project training (not including PADI training)
- In-country emergency support
- 24-hour international HQ back-up

## **AIRPORT INFORMATION**

Nearest airport(s): Phnom Penh (PNH)

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Call us on 020 7613 2422 (UK) / 1 949 336 8178 (US)

Mail us on [info@frontier.ac.uk](mailto:info@frontier.ac.uk)

Check out our social media here:

*Project details were correct at the time this document was generated. Price, dates and other details are subject to change. Please see our website for current details for this project.*