

CONTEXT

Kulen Mountain is part of Phnom Kulen National Park, located in Siem Reap province, 40 Km away from Angkor. It was an Angkorian capital from the early 9th century AD with several temples and later site such as angkorian hermit rock shelters. The mountain is also the largest forested area in the province and at the origin of the entire regional watershed.

Today, the Kulen plateau is populated by more than 4900 inhabitants, distributed in ten villages. Most of the villagers are subsistence farmers cultivating cashew nut, threatening the park's biodiversity.

Isolated until recently, these villages are now mostly accessible by road. To turn this into an opportunity, Archaeology & Development Foundation (ADF) and the Popel villagers set up a Community based tourism Center (CBTC), so they can benefit directly from the tourism and the national park's environmental and historical assets.



Unique hiking experience to spectacular natural sites, while supporting Phnom Kulen villagers!



WHY?

Phnom Kulen, the largest mountain range in Siem Reap province, is mostly known for the Preah Ang Thom reclining Buddha, the 1000 linga, and the large waterfall.

Around Preah Ang Thom recent settlement is located the Community Protected Area of Popel village, (4 km further to the east) one of the largest forested remaining forest in this part of Kulen mountain, with a very rich bio-diversity, giant boulders forest, hidden waterfalls, canopy overlook, bat cave, river spot and potential wildlife sightings

In the framework of the ADF's alternative livelihood component for the Phnom Kulen villagers, the Popel CBTC constitutes a new source of incomes for villagers.

Thanks to HUMY's support and Terre Cambodge expertise, ADF is training these villagers to welcome you and to provide a unique experience in Phnom Kulen National Park.



HOW?

The Popel CBTC is providing guided treks (half or full day) to the park's natural sites hidden in the forest. It also provides locally purchased lunchboxes with eco-friendly packaging for the visitors.

The tours bring additional incomes to the trained villagers employed as local guide, moto drivers for shorts transfers and cooks; and allow the maintenance of the center. These incomes constitute an alternative to destructive agriculture practices, deforestation and poaching in the national park.

By enjoying these trails, you are contributing to the Phnom Kulen park's protection and to the environnemental awareness of its population.

Please contact us for more information and scan the QR codes at the back.

