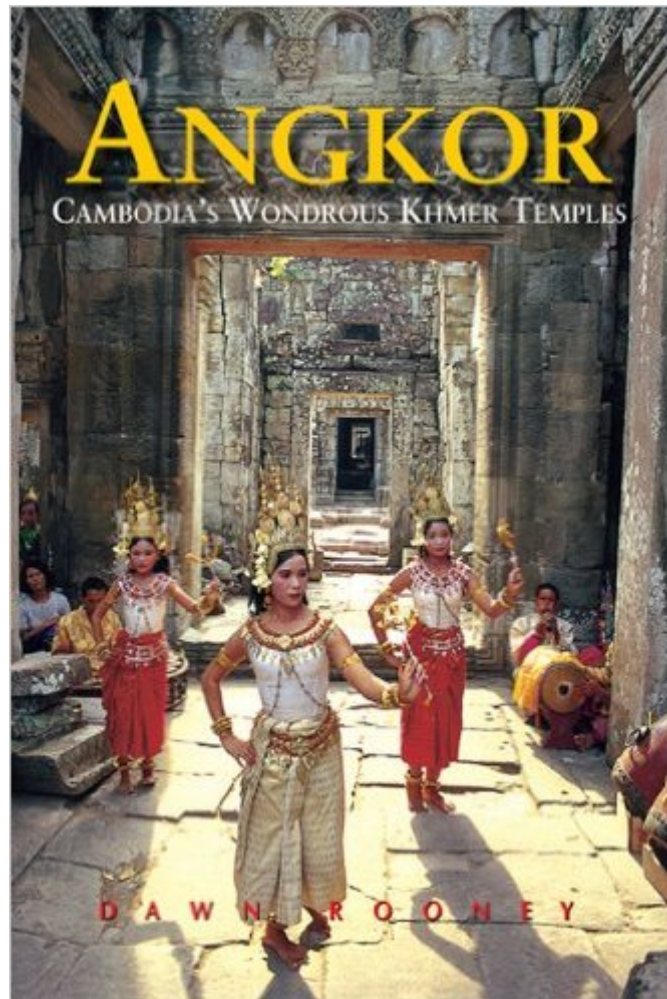


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Angkor: Cambodia's Wondrous Khmer Temples (Odyssey Illustrated Guides)



Synopsis

The great legacy of the ancient Khmer civilization, the temples of Angkor cover an area well over 200 square kilometers (77 square miles) in northwest Cambodia. These monuments, built between the ninth and 15th centuries; the classic period of Khmer ar

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is one of the best travel guides I have ever had in my hands (full disclosure: I am a fanatic when it comes to ancient cultures, something not every reader will share). Where to start? Rooney, a PhD in art history, offers a detailed description of all major and minor temples, suggested paths to explore them, and fascinating background info. Each temple is shown in a photograph, a drawn map is provided, and all relevant info given in a concise way (i.e., time built, period, king, religion). This is not your typical Lonely Planet or Rough Guide. This is a thick, heavy book for those interested in diving into the culture and history of one of the wonders of the world. When my girlfriend and I spent 7 days in Siam Reap, we relied on this book to select the sites most interesting to us. The author groups temples in half-day visits in order to allow the visitor to plan her time better - a very smart approach as most people are overwhelmed by the sheer number of possible temples and regrettably just follow the standard tourist routes (Small and Grand Tour Circuit). With Rooney's book in your hands, you don't need a human guide anymore, just a tuktuk driver or a rented mountain bike to carry you around. The book offers so much more, though. While probably designed as an after-thought, Rooney provides hotel and restaurant recommendations for both Siam Reap

and Phnom-Penh. We found them to be more accurate than a second travel guide on Cambodia that we had brought along. We also have to credit Rooney to encourage us to visit the wonderful capital of Phnom Penh and its spectacular National Museum BEFORE heading out to the temples. There was no better introduction into the Khmer life than wandering through the museum in Phom Penh.

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