

CAMBODIAN LIVING ARTS' EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL TRIP

Transformative Journey Through
History, Creativity & Culture



10–12 Days Exploring Siem Reap, Battambang & Phnom Penh



CAMBODIAN
LIVING ARTS



Overview

Since 2016, Cambodian Living Arts (CLA) has proudly hosted educational and cultural trips for schools and educational institutions from around the world. CLA warmly invites educators and students to embark on a transformative journey through Cambodia—a journey that weaves together history, resilience, and creativity. Over 10–12 days, you'll explore three remarkable cities—Siem Reap, Battambang, and Phnom Penh—and experience firsthand how Cambodia's past shapes its present and inspires its future.

This trip is more than a cultural trip, however. It's a significant adventure that connects you with Cambodia's deep history, challenging past, and its vibrant contemporary society. Through hands-on workshops, visits to historical sites, and meaningful connections with artists, young leaders, and key actors in the sector, students will discover how the arts have become a powerful language of healing, identity, and hope.

Designed to complement global studies programs, this experience helps students build resilience, empathy, and a broader understanding of the world through the lens of Cambodian arts and culture. It's an unforgettable journey that opens hearts and minds, inspiring a deeper connection to our shared humanity.



Siem Reap



Echoes of the Past: Exploring History & Living Heritage

Our journey begins in the magical city of Siem Reap, home to the iconic temples of Angkor—a place where history, art, and spirit come together. As one of Southeast Asia's most treasured archaeological sites, it's more than just ancient ruins—it's living heritage.

In Siem Reap, we'll connect with master artists and cultural guardians who keep traditional music and arts alive. Their stories and skills offer a powerful link between Cambodia's past and present, inviting students to step into a culture that continues to thrive through resilience, creativity, and shared memory.

Highlight Activities

ANGKOR WAT, BAYON & TA PROHM

Step into the heart of the Khmer Empire by exploring the iconic temples of Angkor, where mythology and architecture reveal the spiritual and cultural sophistication of ancient Cambodia.

TONLE SAP FLOATING VILLAGE TOUR

Discover the flavors and stories of Khmer cuisine in a hands-on culinary experience that celebrates both heritage and innovation.





TRADITIONAL DANCE PERFORMANCE

Witness Cambodia's classical and folk dance traditions reborn on stage—an art once nearly lost, now performed with grace, pride, and resilience.



SHADOW PUPPET MAKING & PERFORMANCE

Learn this sacred storytelling craft and experience a powerful shadow puppet show in a local pagoda, where myth and memory come to life.



MEDHA ALL-FEMALE DRUM WORKSHOP

Participate in a dynamic percussion workshop with Cambodia's first all-women drum troupe, who are breaking barriers and redefining tradition.



ANGKUOCH INSTRUMENT WORKSHOP:

Meet a master musician preserving the Angkuoch (jaw harp), an ancient sound once nearly silenced, now thriving thanks to community efforts supported by CLA.

Battambang

Memory & Transformation: Confronting Darkness and Reclaiming Identity

Our exciting journey will continue on the Khmer Magic Music Bus, travelling to the charming city of Battambang. This city holds deep meaning for us—it's where our founder, **Arn CHORN-POND**, spent his childhood, and where stories of survival and hope still echo through its streets.



Battambang is a quiet gem, known for its beautiful riverside pagodas, colonial-era architecture, and rich culinary scene—recognized by **UNESCO** as a **City of Gastronomy**. As we wander through its art-filled alleys and lively markets, students will discover a city where tradition and creativity meet, and where young Cambodians are shaping the future through arts and culture.



Highlight Activities

WAT EK PHNOM WITH ARN CHORN-POND

Stand at a former Khmer Rouge labor camp with survivor and CLA founder Arn Chorn-Pond. Hear his personal testimony and witness the power of music as survival and resistance.

VISIT TO LOCAL RICE PAPER FAMILY BUSINES

Step into a working family's home to learn how everyday traditions and local economies preserve culture and community.

DINNER WITH ARTS COMMUNITY & GALLERY VISIT

Join a conversation with visionaries who've used art to rebuild lives. Explore a gallery showcasing works by young creatives leading Cambodia's artistic renaissance.

CITY HERITAGE TOUR

Walk through art-lined streets, visit markets and historic buildings, and meet students revitalizing the city through CLA scholarships and cultural initiatives.

CIRCUS WORKSHOP

Participate in a circus arts workshop at one of Cambodia's most inspiring organizations. Discover how theater, acrobatics, and music give voice to youth who once had none.



Phnom Penh



Facing the Past, Imagining the Future

Phnom Penh, Cambodia's vibrant capital, is the final stop on our journey and a powerful place to explore the country's present and future through its arts. Home to CLA's main office, the city pulses with creativity, from traditional roots to bold contemporary voices.

Here, students will meet celebrated artists and passionate young creatives who are using art to tell new stories, reflect today's realities, and shape the Cambodia of tomorrow. Their work blends heritage with modern expression, offering a fresh and inspiring perspective on the country's evolving identity.

Highlight Activities

TUOL SLENG GENOCIDE MUSEUM (S21)

Visit the haunting site of a former Khmer Rouge prison. A powerful and sobering reminder of the cost of silence—and the importance of memory.

HARPSWELL FOUNDATION VISIT

Meet a new generation of women leaders driving change in Cambodia and Southeast Asia through education, leadership, and empowerment.

CONTEMPORARY DANCE WORKSHOP

Step into Cambodia's evolving dance scene with a workshop that blends tradition with innovation. Led by choreographers, this experience explores how contemporary artists use movement to reflect modern Cambodian life, identity, and creative freedom.

BOPHANA AUDIOVISUAL CENTER

Explore rare archival materials and meet the storytellers of tomorrow—young Cambodians reclaiming their history through film and digital media.





KHMER COOKING CLASS & FAREWELL DINNER

Discover the flavors and stories of Khmer cuisine in a hands-on culinary experience that celebrates both heritage and innovation.



FT GALLERY VISIT

Enter Cambodia's bold art future at a gallery blending Khmer heritage with global street art. Witness how young creatives are building bridges between past and present.

CLA HEADQUARTERS & PRESENTATION

Hear from the CLA team about how the arts are being used to heal, connect communities, and build cultural confidence among Cambodian youth.

What You Should Know!

WHO CAN JOIN

Our trips are designed for middle or high school and university students with an interest in global studies, arts, culture, and social impact. They are ideal for school groups, educators, and institutions looking to provide immersive, cross-cultural learning experiences beyond the classroom.

GROUP SIZE

Trips typically accommodate **up to 20 students or more**. We can scale and adapt the experience based on the group's needs, age range, and educational goals.

CUSTOMIZATION

Each journey is **custom-built to align with your school's curriculum, interests, and budget**. Whether you'd like to emphasize service learning, arts education, history, or leadership development, we'll collaborate with you to craft a trip that is meaningful, manageable, and memorable.

BOOKING TIMELINE

To ensure a well-planned and enriching trip, we recommend **beginning the planning process 6–12 months in advance**. This allows ample time for itinerary development, school approvals, travel logistics, and pre-departure preparation.

SAFETY & SUPPORT

CLA has been hosting cultural trips for educational institutions since 2016, welcoming students from around the world—especially from the United States. We partner with trusted local guides, educators, and travel providers to ensure a safe, well-organized experience from arrival to departure.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE

This journey is more than travel—it's a powerful complement to **global studies, social justice, history, arts, and civic engagement** programs. Students gain firsthand insight into Cambodia's past and present, and they return home with new perspectives, empathy, and a deeper understanding of their role as global citizens.

LANGUAGE

English is widely spoken throughout the trip, especially by our partners, guides, and facilitators. Translation support is available when needed to enhance cultural exchange with artists and communities.



Get in Touch

We're here to guide you through every step. From your first inquiry to your return home, our team is committed to creating a smooth and meaningful experience.

✉ development@cambodianlivingarts.org

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About Cambodian Living Arts

Founded in 1998 with a mission to catalyze a vibrant arts sector, CLA initially focused on reviving and preserving traditional performing arts on the verge of disappearing. During that period, CLA supported master artists in passing their knowledge to over 300 students in various art forms across Cambodia.

By the 2010s, CLA shifted toward nurturing a new generation of young artists by offering scholarships, fellowships, fair-paying jobs through regular performance platform, professional development programs, and a five-year pilot arts education program in select public schools.

Since 2017, in response to limited resources for artists and cultural workers, CLA has provided small grants, creative skills workshops, and support for new works. Today, CLA supports artists and organizations across all art forms, with an emphasis on strengthening and developing the entire arts sector.