An invitation to experience Cambodia’s transformation through the arts
On behalf of Cambodian Living Arts, I would like to personally invite you on an exclusive journey through the Kingdom of Cambodia. Our Cultural Immersion Trips give you an insight into Cambodia like no other, through a unique blend of tourism and personal encounters with the people who’ve contributed to the country’s cultural re-emergence.

With almost 20 years of experience, CLA has grown into one of the leading arts and cultural institutions in Cambodia. What began as a small program supporting four Master Artists has blossomed into a diverse and wide-reaching organization providing opportunities for young artists and arts leaders, supporting arts and culture education in Cambodia, expanding the performing arts and building regional collaborations.

We would love for you to come and experience this transformation through the arts for yourself. Our trips will give you the chance to dive into Cambodia’s deep heritage and meet the artists, students and leaders working in Cambodia today. Through these intimate encounters you will come to understand the values and aspirations of Cambodian artists, the obstacles they face, and the vital role that culture plays in society here.

Come with us and discover the impressive talents of this post-conflict nation and the role that you can play as an agent of change to help develop, sustain and grow the arts here in the Kingdom of Culture.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Phlocun PRIM
Executive Director
Cambodian Living Arts
Take the journey of a lifetime with Cambodian Living Arts Cultural Tours. We blend immersive cultural experiences with the finest of Cambodian hospitality.

We offer fully-customizable trips that delve deep into the country’s fascinating heritage through the lens of the arts. With 20 years of experience in the Cambodian art scene and our close relationships with the artists, students and leaders who are shaping it, we create trips that offer a uniquely personal insight into the country through its culture.

Our tours focus around the three arts hubs of Siem Reap, Phnom Penh, and Battambang. In Siem Reap you’ll see the temples of Angkor come to life in a new light and experience why Siem Reap has become a hub for Cambodia’s heritage. In Battambang, you’ll experience its vibrant visual arts scene while soaking in the city’s charming and relaxed atmosphere. In Phnom Penh you’ll experience the art and artists shaping modern Cambodia’s cultural, commercial and political center and enjoy the romantic luxury of the famous Mekong River.

Our cultural trips include interactive workshops, personal encounters with artists and unforgettable live performances. We plan a balance of optional activities and opportunities for free time so you can explore independently. Cambodia is famed for its warm hospitality and we will ensure that your trip is the perfect balance of intrigue, adventure and relaxation.

Join us for a once-in-a-lifetime experience on a journey through the arts.
Siem Reap

Famous for Angkor Wat, Siem Reap is a hub for the traditional arts and a place to dive into its heritage. The country’s premier travel destination, the city has something for everyone including spectacular sights, delicious cuisine, and unique entertainment.

BAYON

The smiling faces of this temple have been dubbed by some as the “Mona Lisa” of Southeast Asia. The temple is located at the center of the temple complex and represents the intersection of heaven and earth.
Discover Angkor’s Secrets

Marvel at the stunning architecture and decipher the story of Cambodia’s past as you explore the immense temple complex of Angkor. Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Angkor was the center of the Khmer culture and empire from the 9th to 14th centuries.

**ANGKOR WAT**
A must see for any visitor, Angkor Wat is surrounded by a moat and crowned by five lotus-like towers rising from ground level. The walls of the temples are adorned with bas-reliefs and carvings, depicting stories and characters from Hindu mythology and representing some of the finest Angkorian-era art.

**TA PROHM**
This temple has been relatively untouched in an effort to preserve rather than restore. The beauty of Ta Prohm is a result of the elements, with massive trees taking root on and around the ancient structures.

**Getting the most out of Angkor**
To make the most of our trip, our experienced and charismatic guides will lead you to sites mostly at dawn and dusk, when the light is stunning and temperatures are much cooler. This means some early mornings, but trust us, it’s worth it!

We offer extended tours to those especially interested in the Angkor historical site.
A Heritage Hub

Siem Reap is more than temples! With the deep roots of Cambodia’s artistic heritage tracing all the way back to Angkorian times, the area has become a hub for traditional music, instruments and performance. Master artists and cultural experts in the province have kept traditional art forms alive (and have even resurrected some lost ones!) and modern troupes and artisans are taking things to new heights. During our tours, you’ll get an opportunity to meet some of these artists – from masters to modern troupes – and gain an appreciation of why Siem Reap is a center for the practice, research, and development of Cambodia’s intangible cultural heritage.

Living traditions

A visit to Siem Reap gives you the opportunity to see both Cambodia’s ancient history and the relevance of religious and artistic traditions to contemporary Cambodia. You will visit active pagodas and get insights into the lives of the monks, artists, students and others who use these spaces on a daily basis.
Diverse Performances and Experiences

SOUNDS OF ANGKOR
Imagine temple walls coming to life as a troupe of 20 artists showcase instruments discovered on the Angkorian bas-reliefs by ethnomusicologist Patrick Kersalé. The talented musicians will lead listeners through a journey from the 8th century to present day classical Cambodian music.

PHARE, THE CAMBODIAN CIRCUS
Phare is a beautifully choreographed blend of traditional and modern theater, music, dance, acrobatics, juggling and contortion, all set under a Big Top. The shows tell poignant and entertaining Cambodian stories using movement as medium. All performers are trained at Phare Ponleu Selpak, an NGO providing arts education in Battambang.

WAT BO SHADOW PUPPETS
The art of large shadow puppets is one of the Kingdom’s oldest traditions, believe to have developed during the pre-Angkorian period. These large puppets are made of cow leather that is carefully cut by hand to make the characters and scenes from the Reamker, the classic Cambodian retelling of the Hindu Ramayana epic.

KANTOAMING
Believed to date back to the time of the Buddha, Kantoaming is one of Cambodia’s rarest art forms. In this funeral lullaby, a group of instruments featuring gongs, drums and a unique Khmer reed instrument called the Srolai play music to guide the spirit of the dead back to its homeland for rebirth. In 2016, Kantoaming was performed by Master SENG Norn in New York as part of An Occupation of Loss, an installation by Taryn SIMON.
Arn spends much of his time in Cambodia touring with the Khmer Magic Music Bus, his latest initiative to get traditional music out into villages that would otherwise lack access to it. Traditional songs and dances remain popular around the country, attracting young and old alike. Depending on the availability of the bus, we can arrange for you to visit one of their village performances during your tour.

Arn’s homeland

Our founder, Arn CHORN-POND, spent his early years in Battambang, where his family ran a popular Yike company, a type of Cambodian theater. During the Khmer Rouge regime, he was separated from his family and was sent to a child labor camp in the countryside.

Battambang is known for its charming, laid-back atmosphere. Its beautiful architecture reflects the different phases of its history with New Khmer, French-Classical and traditional Khmer homes and buildings lining either side of the river. Battambang is also Cambodia’s visual arts and circus hub.

THE KHMER MAGIC MUSIC BUS

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Battambang captivates visitors with a buzzing visual arts scene, and is home to many young and emerging artists. A Battambang resident will guide you through its galleries and historic sites, meeting local artists and gaining insight into the life experiences that shape their work. Phare Ponleu Selpak, an organization providing arts education to disadvantaged youth, is also based in Battambang.

Art for sale
For those interested in purchasing an original work to recall your artistic exploration of Cambodia, many of the visual artists we will meet will have work for sale. Most galleries are able to ship internationally.
Phnom Penh

The country’s capital and the base for most of our operations, bustling Phnom Penh has a lot to offer in history, culture and entertainment. In the midst of rapid change, the city now has excellent restaurants and hotels yet is still considered one of the friendliest capitals in Asia. This is an opportunity to see Cambodia come into its own.

TUOL SLENG GENOCIDE MUSEUM

Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum is an informative and deeply moving museum located at the notorious Khmer Rouge prison S-21. Set in a former high school, it is an important place to visit to understand Cambodia’s recent past. A live performance of Smot, a hauntingly beautiful form of chanted poetry often performed at funerals, completes the experience and offers a sense of healing.
The traditional dance show

Our Traditional Dance Show, set within the elegant grounds of the National Museum, has been running for more than five years. It provides stable employment to dancers, musicians and technicians, and gives audiences an insight into authentic classical and folk dances from around Cambodia. Guests will be able to take a peek behind the scenes, and talk to the artists themselves.
Arts Tour

From architectural heritage sites to contemporary galleries, Phnom Penh is rich in arts and culture. We will share with you the city’s key sites, galleries and back-alley secrets in the company of the artists and cultural leaders who are shaping them. Key stops include the Chaktomuk Theatre, built by the famous Khmer architect, Vann Molyvann, and the Royal University of Fine Arts, a beautiful 100-year-old campus where over 1000 students learn dance, music, visual arts, sculpture, architecture and more. We’ll visit the galleries and projects showing the latest work and innovation, and will showcase CLA’s diverse programs as we travel through the city.
THE FILM INDUSTRY
Cambodia has had a long history of film. The 1960s were regarded as Cambodia’s “golden age” of cinema, with then-Prince Sihanouk not only a patron of the arts but himself a director, producer, and screenwriter. The entry of the Khmer Rouge all but wiped out the film industry, but in recent years a new scene has started to re-emerge. Oscar-nominated director Rithy PANH is the country’s most well-known filmmaker and the founder of the Bophana Audiovisual Resource Centre, and younger talents are earning international recognition, including Cannes award winner Davy CHOU, former CLA student NEANG Kavich, Kulikar SOTHO, Lida CHAN and Kalyannee MAM.

Sunset on the Mekong
No trip to Cambodia would be complete without experiencing the famous Mekong River. Cruise down this iconic waterway listening to local artists perform as the sun sets over Phnom Penh’s skyline. To make your evening complete, we can arrange your cruise with or without dinner for groups of any size.

Workshops: Learn and interact
As well as watching performances, you will have the opportunity to take part in workshops. This is the perfect way to gain a deeper understanding of some of Cambodia’s unique art forms, while also meeting artists in an intimate setting and finding out more about their own stories.
Living cuisine

During our tours you will sample authentic Cambodian cuisine made by fantastic chefs with local produce. We will arrange meals at some of Cambodia’s finest restaurants and in the private homes of our artists and friends. We make every effort to accommodate dietary restrictions.
With all of its wonderful sights, adventures and people – focused around the arts of Cambodia, it was an experience not otherwise possible to normal tourism.”
- Martin Noretsky

“This trip was life changing for me in so many ways. The richness of the experience is almost overwhelming!”
- Jessica Wasilewski

CLA TEAM
Our dedicated host team are here to ensure your experience is both magical and impactful. During your trip you’ll also get a chance to meet CLA’s front-line staff to learn about the wide-ranging work our organization carries out and help place the thought-provoking experiences from our trip into context.

ARTFUL ACCOMMODATION
As you journey through Cambodia’s art scene, we will accommodate you in some of the country’s most luxurious and unique hotels renowned for their heritage and art. There will be plenty of time to relax and sample Cambodian hospitality at its finest, take a break by the pool, or unwind at the spa. Whatever you need, we’ve got you covered.

CHILD PROTECTION
Cambodia is a developing country with many vulnerable children. We take child protection exceptionally seriously, and all our staff have taken part in Friends International Child Safe training. Our hotels are all endorsed by Friends International Child Safe. We do not include orphanage visits in our itineraries. For further information on child protection in Cambodia, please visit friends-international.org
CREATE YOUR CUSTOM ADVENTURE!
We aim to ensure your trip is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. From one day add-ons to two-week immersive trips, our team will work with you to create a journey through the Cambodian arts that is tailored to your exact needs and artistic interests.

OR JOIN AN EXISTING TRIP!
We also run fixed-date tours throughout the year. To find out when, please visit our website.

WHAT IS INCLUDED?
- Accommodation at some of Cambodia’s best hotels
- Meals arranged as part of tour
- All arranged activities
- Entrance tickets
- Guide Fees
- Angkor Wat Temple Complex pass

EXCLUSIONS
- International and Domestic Flights
- Visas – entrance into Cambodia
- Medical Vaccinations
- Travel insurance
- Meals during free time
- Tips for guides
- Personal expenses (drinks, laundry etc)

MORE ABOUT CAMBODIAN LIVING ARTS
Our mission is to be a catalyst in a vibrant arts sector, inspiring new generations. We aim to promote creativity and innovation in the arts sector, build links with our neighbors in the Asian region, support arts and culture education in Cambodia, and expand audiences and markets for Cambodian performing arts nationally and internationally. We believe that through creativity we can each expand our potential as human beings.

We have been working in Cambodia since 1998, and are a registered US non-profit organization with Section 501(c)(3) status.

Contact Us
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