



the temple, the water in this pond was for use at the capital of Hariharalaya and for irrigating the plains in the area. The temple consists of a double platform rising originally from the baray surrounded by a laterite rampart on all four sides. Lions on the landings of the stairways guard the temple. The four towers appear randomly placed on a raised smaller brick platform. A sandstone channel in the shape of a cross situated in the center of the four towers is an unusual feature. The channels extend to the cardinal directions from a square pedestal for a lingam. It is speculated that holy water poured over the lingam flowed in the channels. The panels of the false door have multiple figures. The inscriptions on the door frames of these towers are exceptionally fine.

## *Phnom Krom Temple*

Phnom Krom is a 137 meters high hill located about 12 kilometers south-west of Siem Reap at the northern end of the Tonle Sap Lake. Situated on the hilltop, Phnom Krom temple was built in the late 9<sup>th</sup> and early 10<sup>th</sup> centuries by King Yasovarman I, dedicating to Brahmanism trinity—Shiva, Vishnu and Brahma.



The temple is square in plan and consists of three towers made of sandstone in a row standing on a low rectangular platform. They are oriented in north to south direction. The central shrine is dedicated to Shiva, the northern shrine to Vishnu and the southern shrine to Brahma. The upper portions of the towers have collapsed and the facades are dilapidated. The towers are surrounded by a laterite rampart intersected on each side by cruciform gopuras. Originally, three long halls built of laterite, probably rest houses, were located two on the south; one on the north. Only base of these remain. Four small, square structures stand in the courtyard in front of the central tower. All four open to the west and have a series of holes in the walls, feature that suggest they may have been used as crematoriums.



## *Floating Village on Tonle Sap*



A boat trip on the Tonle Sap is a pleasant break from temple roving and gives visitors a chance to see a fishing village. All the way visitors will see the fishermen and their families who live on the water and form the so-called floating village, Chong Knas. The village is located in the only floating com mune, Chong Knas, about 15 kilometers from Siem Reap provincial town.

The Tonle Sap is the largest permanent freshwater lake in Southeast Asia. As the main source of fishing and agriculture to people living on the surrounding plain, it has played an important role in Angkor throughout history. The lake is connected to the Mekong River by Tonle Sap River joined at Phnom Penh. The hydrological process that cause the lake to increase in size during the monsoon rains, and then recede, is believed to be of importance in maintaining the ecological system of the lake, which includes various species of fish and birds.