

# PHNOM PENH-KOMPONG THOM-SIEM REAP

If you travel by road from Phnom Penh to Kompong Thorn will have an opportunity to see the following interesting temples on the way:

## *Prasat Kuh Nokor*



Phnom Penh-Kompong Thorn is 168km; Prasat Kuh Nokor is located in Banteay District, 79km from Provincial Town of Kompong Thorn on National Road 6.

Wat Kuh Nokor is a Buddhist Pagoda built on the flat ground, on a square terrace made of laterite and sandstone facing to the East with rampart surrounding. Prasat Kuh Norkor was built in the 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> century by the King Suryavarman I (1002-1050).



## *Prasat Koh Rokar*

Located in Strung Sen District, 14km distance from Provincial Town of Kompong Thorn. The temple was built of sandstone and laterite in Khleang style at the end of 11<sup>th</sup> century during the reign of King Suryavarman I dedicated to Siva. The Lintels had various styles: some of Sambo Prei Kuh, some of Prei Khmeng and some of Kulen styles.



## *Prasat Phum Darsat*

Located in Santuk District, 27km distance from Kampong Thorn Provincial Town. The temple was built of brick, masonry and sandstone in 8<sup>th</sup> century (706) with Kompong Preah style dedicated to Siva. It was a sanctuary built on the flat terrace without the false door and faced to the east. In the ancient period, the doors were made of two wooden boards: one carved with sculptures of male divinities and another one carved with female divinities.



## Sambo Prei Kuk Complex

Sambo Prei Kuk Complex is located 25km north of the provincial Town. The ancient city where monuments of Sambor Prei Kok are founded c today was identified as ISANAPURA, the capital of Chenla in the 7<sup>th</sup> Chenla was a former vassal of the Funan Kingdom that was one of the first states in Southeast Asia, but it gradually gained its power and ventually King Citrasena Mahendravarmman of Funan in th the early 7 century.



Main archaeological features in these groups of monuments are said to have been founded by King ISANA VARMAN I, the son of King CITRASENA. Many decorative details in Khmer architecture and sculpture are classified as Sambo style: the name was derived from the monuments dated in the first half of the 7<sup>th</sup> century .The century following the death of JAYVARMAN I who was the last known king of this kingdom in the second haft of the 7<sup>th</sup> century is a dark period in the history of Chenla.



According to the Chinese account, in the 8th century, the country of Chenla was devided into land and water Chenla. King MAHENDRAVARMAN had reinged from 607 to 616, was a son of King ISANAVARMAN I. Sambo Prei Kuk style characterized the real Khmer talent. After right received influence from India, Khmer managed her country and developed her own arts sufficient to modern development. Arts and civilization of Angkor was the great achievement in Southeast Asia. The well known city was called ISANAPURA is presently located at Sambo Prei Kuk in Kampong Thom Province.



By observation, there are 52 small and big sanctuaries are in fairly good condition, the other 52 sanctuaries were fallen and buried and buried into the ground, then because small hills. These sanctuaries were built of brick and limestone with the decoration of bas-relief on the scenery walls. The

foundation of sanctuary was made of laterite; and the gateway, lintel false door, diamond column and the sculptures are made of sandstone.

### **Sambo Prei Kuk Sanctuaries were divided into 3 Group:**

#### *Northern Sanctuaries:*



Northern sanctuaries group comprised 11 sanctuaries separated from each other with the one at the middle rampart. The sanctuaries were built of brick and limestone and carved in the beautiful real Khmer style. The sanctuary was built on a rectangular hill (24mx21m or 25,200 square meters or 5.52 hectares).

The sanctuaries comprised 14 temples (only 8 remains), and were surrounded by , two-wall rampart. These temples were constructed in various plans-square and octagonal shapes. The top of the temple was carved in lotus pedals of sandstone, but some parts were cracked down and buried into the ground and the pile of bricks.



## Lion Temple Group/Central Temple Group



Lion temple group comprises 18 temples with two ramparts closed to the pond. The reason why the people called Lion Temple because on the top of all stairs from the four directions, there were sitting lion with forelegs standing up, hind-legs humbling down, its head rose up and its mouse opened to the sanctuary.

The rampart outside made of laterite, had 328 meter length, 310 meter width and 101,650 square meter surface. This rampart had Gopura in two direction (East and West) entrances that are connected by the other laterite ramparts. In between rampart 2 and 1, at the Northern side-near the rampart 1, there was a rectangular pond (42.10m x 34.20m). The bottom of the pond spreaded by laterite and surrounded by the stepped stairs. The small stairs of the Southern side are made of sandstone.

