

# *Sihanouk Ville*

The history of Sihanouk Ville goes back only as far as 1955 when the area was known as Kompong som. In August of that year, a French/Cambodian construction team cut a base camp into the unoccupied jungle where the Hawaii Seaview Restaurant now sits. They laid the ground work for the construction of the new Port of Kompong som.

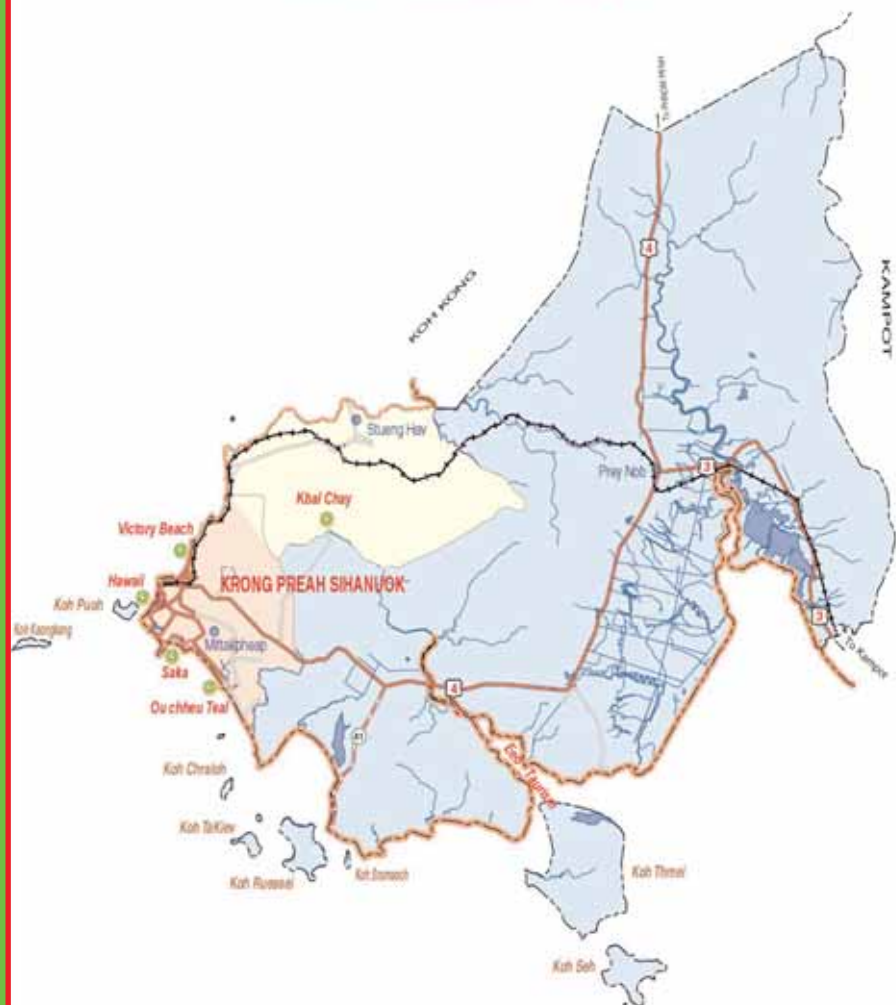
Prior 1954, Indochina (Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam) was a single political unit under the French jurisdiction. During this period, Cambodia maintained international sea via the Mekong River. But the dissolution of French Indochina in 1954 meant the Mekong delta reverted to the control of Vietnam. Seeking unfettered access to the ocean, plans were made to construct a new ocean port. Kompong Som was selected for water depth port and ease of access.



Construction of the port and Route 4 (the road to Phnom Penh) was carried out from 1955-1960. Funds for construction of the port came from France, and the road was financed by the USA. Upon completion the town was renamed Sihanoukville in honor of the king.

At the crest of the Pich Nil pass on Route 4 dozens of spirit houses line the road. Many of the houses are maintained for Yay Mao, the deity who oversees the southern coastal region of Cambodia. When traveling Route 4 people often display bananas on their dash-board and offer the bananas, incense and a little money to Yay Mao at the Pich Nil. The offerings are usually made with the prayer for safe travels.

# KRONG PREAH SIHANUOK ROAD NETWORK WITH TOURISM SITES



Data Sources

- Reconnaissance Survey Project (RSP) : 1999
- Tourism Sites from Ministry of Tourism

## *The Beaches*



Sihanoukville town sits in the center of a small peninsula that just into the warm waters of the Gulf of Thailand. Several fine white sand beaches, easily accessible from the town, line the coasts around the peninsula. All of the main beaches are lined with little beach bars and restaurants offering cold drinks, beach umbrellas and chairs, seafood BBQ, evening parties, water sports and more.

### *Ochheuteal Beach*

Known as “UNTAC Beach” in the early 1990s, is now the most popular in Sihanoukville, offering the full spectrum of beach venues from upscale hotels and dining to laid-back budget beach bars and bungalows.



### *Victory beach*

At over two kilometers, Victory beach is quite long, but like independence Beach, the sandy area is narrow, making low tide the best time. Victory Beach is really two beaches divided by a rocky point and a small hill. The beach is a bit quieter and more relaxed than Ochheuteal beach.

# Kampot Town

Kampot is bordered by Vietnam to the east and extending into the Gulf of Siam to the south. As well to the natural resource, a piece of paradise can be found there at the top of the 1050 meters high Boko Mountain. Boko Mountain Hill Station used to be one of the most popular recreational places



during the French colonial period, which was established in 1920s. Once you are on the top of the mountain, there is so much to be seen such as an old abandoned Catholic church, the derelict French colonial style hotel and casino, holiday villas and a Buddhist Monastery that is built on the verge of the mountain cliff. A magnificent panoramic view of the gulf of Siam can



be seen from the top of the mountain; this excursion provides a completely different travel experience for those who visit the Hill Station. Another



itinerary, which must not be missed, is an excursion to the serene waterfall of “Tuk Chhou” situated about 10km from Kampot.

## *Kep Beach*



A single, kilometer long crescent of sand near the tip of the Kep peninsula. Dinner platforms and seafood vendors line the road behind the beach. Busy on weekends but often deserted during the week. The road through Kep traces the coast line to the beach and then circles back on it self. Alternatively, you can choose to swim or just relax on the beach of the Kep city, which was established by the French in 1908. What's more, Kep offers great seafood and magnificent views of the mountains and the beaches. Taking a boat to nearby islands is also a breath taking experience.

## *Kor Jonsay (Rabbit Island)*

Island is nearby Kep. White sand beaches and coconut trees. Relatively clear water. Snorkel around the rocks. No coral but lots of fish.