

TRAVEL SMARTER. TRAVEL BETTER.

Udaya Residence is a sweet retreat in Siem Reap

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Udaya Residence

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The Pitch The Udaya Residence is an ideal base for relaxing in Cambodia's tropical heat, or, if you can tear yourself away from the comforts of the hotel, exploring the UNESCO-honoured Angkor temples and other sites near Cambodia's most popular city. The property's pool is a highlight and the various places to lounge in and around the gardens call out for a nap. Once you've discovered the spa, you may never want to leave. Located in the southeast corner of Siem Reap, Udaya is outside of the tourist fray, but still within walking distance — or a short tuk-tuk ride — from the centre of town. The family-owned-and-operated hotel benefits from a husband-and-wife management team who bring their experience of working at Siem Reap's luxe Sofitel.

What We Love Udaya has just 22 rooms, most clustered around a deep swimming pool surrounded by sun beds, many with their own set of curtains for when you need some shade but don't feel like giving up your spot. Upstairs rooms have a second large terrace away from the pool for further privacy. Rooms are decorated simply with dark wooden furniture, with Khmer art above the bed and intricately carved wooden ceilings.

The poolside restaurant serves both Khmer and western foods — including a fine version of the popular coconut-based fish dish "amok" — and is excellent at accommodating special requests and food allergies. The breakfast buffet is extensive and includes a house-selected Cambodian coffee that tastes like chocolate and fruits from the owners' farm. Private candlelight dinners on your terrace or near the pool can also be arranged.

Don't Miss Indulge in Udaya's traditional Khmer herbal compress massage when you arrive, then be sure to have another treatment before your departure. A typical oil massage is followed by a second massage, this time with a muslin-wrapped bundle of aromatic herbs heated in a steamer. As the compress soothes sore spots and you inhale the lemongrass and ginger, it will leave both your mind and body blissfully relaxed.

Rooms from US\$99

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