Skip the sunset crowds at Phnom Krom

Watching the sunset at the Angkor temples is a very popular activity. In fact, it’s too popular. Some spots, like Phnom Bakheng, restrict the number of people allowed up, but you’re still elbow to elbow with loud-talking fellow tourists. It’s hardly the magical sunset you’d been hoping for. Instead of Phnom Bakheng or Pre Rup (both open until 7 PM and teeming with sunset crowds), consider the much more serene Phnom Krom. Phnom Krom is south of Siem Reap (the majority of other temples are north of the city). The drive through the pretty countryside will take about 20 minutes by tuktuk. Your driver will likely drop you off at the foot of the stone staircase (bring some water for the climb or see if you can negotiate a ride further up the 460-foot high hill). You’ll pass a checkpoint to show your Angkor ticket, then a small pagoda, and then reach the ruins of a three-towered 9th-century temple. Pick a spot with a view of the vast Tonlé Sap lake, which will catch the setting sun’s reflection. Prime spots are on the southwest corner of the ruins. There’s a good chance you’ll be the only one there.
When is the best time to visit?

Afternoons.

How much does it cost?

About KHR37 - KHR72.

All temples within the main Angkor complex can be seen for the same price, a $37 1-day ticket, $62 3-day ticket, or $72 7-day ticket.

Do you have any tips?

Explore the village at the base of the hill and nearby countryside in the afternoon before sunset. Afterwards, stop at one of the restaurants on the way back to Siem Reap for a non-touristy meal. When negotiating a price with your driver, let him know about how long you plan for.

Is there an official website?

Yes, you can visit www.tourismcambodia.org
Location

Angkor Thom
Angkor Archaeological Park
Krong Siem Reap
17000, Cambodia

Directions
Save

4.8
8,222 reviews

About the local expert

Local recommendation from
Johanna Read

Johanna Read is a Canadian freelance writer/photographer specializing in travel, food and responsible tourism. Based in Vancouver, she loves the city’s ocean location and fabulous food. Find links to her articles for
in-flight magazines, Fodor’s, USA Today, and others at TravelEater.net.

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