

RED DIRT TOUR



RIDER'S MANUAL



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www.reddirttour.com

COST AND PACKAGE INFO

COST PER RIDER

£1,884 per rider.

Discounted to **£1799** for all bookings made before 30th April 2014.

Get in quick, as this Cambodia dirt bike adventure is strictly limited to 12 riders.

INCLUDES

Bike (Honda XR250 Electric Start)
Guides/mechanics
Accommodation (including camping)
Support vehicle
General day to day expenses (bridge tolls, ferry fares etc.)
Tour shirt and hat

DOES NOT INCLUDE

Visa
Flights
Food (except for Camp Night)
Fuel for the bikes
Beverages and alcohol
Extras not listed in the itinerary
Damage to the motorcycles above and beyond general wear and tear
Personal expenses / sight seeing budget
High Cost Emergency Medical Supplies

RIDERS MUST HAVE

Travel/Health Insurance to cover motorcycles on an on and off-road guided tour over 250cc in Cambodia
International drivers permit (under £10 from Post Office)
Both parts of UK Driving License with correct motorcycle category
Cambodian Tourist Visa

ITINERARY

PRE RED DIRT DAYS - ARRIVAL & ACCLIMATISATION

(Hotel, Dinner and Breakfast included for both nights.)

Day 1: Land in Phnom Penh. You will be met at the airport and taken to your hotel to check in and freshen up. You can either relax from your journey, or take in the sights, sounds and smells of the bustling capital. Dinner on us, and a chance to meet the team and your fellow riders.

Day 2: Acclimatisation day. Bike hand-over day where you will get the chance to familiarize yourself with your bike, and setup, as you require. It's a good day for everyone to relax into the spirit of the adventure. You will also have time to explore Phnom Penh at your leisure. Be sure to get an early night though, as the Red Dirt Tour 2013 must leave at dawn the next morning!

THE RED DIRT TOUR

(6 nights hotel accommodation / 1 night under canvas)

Day 3: The Red Dirt Tour 2013 gets off to a dawn start, leaving Phnom Penh you and your bike will take a ferry across the Mighty Mekong river, stopping at a local temple for a traditional Buddhist Blessing (for luck on your journey ahead) and then follow the river road to Kompong Cham. Easy ride @ 120 km.

Day 4: Kompong Cham to Sen Monorom via the Kings Highway. This is a great rocky off-road route. Road then off-road. First taste of jungle and hill tribe minority villages. Challenging ride @ 180 km.

Day 5: Sen Monorom to Kratie. Hard off-road, diving off into the wilderness, rewarded at the end of the day with a swimming pool at a resort on an island in the Mekong. Hardest off-road of the tour @ 200 km. Option of easier ride.

Day 6: Day off. A chance to explore an island in the middle of the Mekong, and let those muscles unwind a bit! Reflect on the journey so far, and ready yourself for the 3 days of riding ahead.

Day 7: Kratie to Kompong Thom. Off-road through the Gold Mines of Kompong Thom. Mixture of graded roads through the plantations and technical trails through the jungle that hides the gold mines @ 220 km.

Day 8: Kompong Thom to Preah Khan. Temple and a night's camping. This is the first part of Route 66, the ancient route into Angkor Wat from the far-flung outposts of the empire to the east. Once one of the busiest roads in the country, now a single ox-cart trail through the jungle @ 170 km.

Day 9: Preah Khan to Siem Reap, finishing off the next section of Route 66. All great off-road right into the heart of the provincial capital @ 140 km.

Farewell dinner, as you have made it to the Provincial Capital of Cambodia, the final destination of The Red Dirt Tour 2013, and hell you've earned yourself a beer or two!

POST RED DIRT DAYS – NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE

Accommodation and activities for these post tour days/nights are not included in the tour price and are not organized by Mototrails Limited, and/or its partners. A Mototrails representative will be on hand for the morning of Day 10 to help you book Tuk-Tuks, buy entry tickets and generally point you in the right direction for the rest of your stay.

Day 10: Travel back to UK for those who wish to.

For those who are staying, either a rest day or any of the following:
Angkor Wat / Phnom Kulen / Landmine Museum / War Museum

RED DIRT SCORPION – THE STING IN THE TAIL

(optional extra \$US 850 payable locally in cash only)

For the more adventurous who are up for a further challenge, we have made available this optional 3 day riding extension to the end of the tour. This tour option is available to book as last-minute as the day the tour leaves for the southern coast.

Day 11-13: A three day sting in the tail that will take you through some of the toughest terrain, and deliver the most rewarding riding in the country – across the Cardamom Mountains – and finish up down on the Cambodian coast for a couple of days R 'n R. Off-road riding in Cambodia at it's very best.

STUFF YOU SHOULD READ

WHO CAN RIDE THE RED DIRT TOUR?

The Red Dirt Tour is suitable for riders that have some off-road experience, but you don't need to be a Trail Blazer or Enduro competitor to take part.

Having said that, you may have to dig deep on some sections as your riding skills may well be challenged enroute, as we believe that the sense of achievement and confidence you gain from being 'pushed', enriches your whole Red Dirt Tour experience.

We take our duty of care to our riders seriously. With that in mind, The Red Dirt Tour has been devised to accommodate as wide a range of riding ability as possible, whilst keeping the ride as safe as possible for all participants.

The Red Dirt Tour is primarily a Trail Ride through the heart of Cambodia. We have tried to balance saddle time, routes and pace so that you experience the thrill of riding the terrain, without missing out on the incredible sights along the way.

ACCOMMODATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT

The accommodation each night of the expedition is based on 2 people sharing a twin room (or double if you prefer). If you would rather have your own room, this can be arranged for an extra charge of \$30 to \$50 per night. This price may vary, and will be subject to availability at the time of check-in. This charge is payable locally on check-in US\$.

We endeavor to source the best accommodation available in each village or town we stop for the night in. Accommodation in the main capitals of Phnom Penh and Siem Reap will have swimming pools, as will some of the resorts in the provinces. Accommodation is chosen on the basis of all-round quality and (inline with the whole Red Dirt Tour mission of immersing you in Cambodian culture) preference is given to family run businesses with Khmer character, rather than faceless corporate style air-conditioned boxes.

BIKES YOU'LL BE RIDING

The Red Dirt Tour bikes are Honda XR250s.

We consider these to be the best dirt bike machines available in Cambodia. They are well maintained, are kept roadworthy throughout the trip, and fit the bill exactly for the terrain, routes and distances that you will be riding. They may not be the most modern machines available, but they will be the best maintained.

WHY DECEMBER IS GREAT FOR RIDING

Cambodian weather tends to be a little more reliable than that of good old Blighty. Through extensive local knowledge, we know that the first three weeks of December typically offer up the most rewarding time spent in the saddle. The temperature tends to be the coolest of the year at an average of around 25C, taking some of the heat out of the ride. As November heralds the end of the monsoon season, any muddy and impassable sections of bush and jungle trails have had a chance to dry enough to become passable once again, and the bush and jungle vistas are also still at their most vivid before the dry season has really taken its toll on the vegetation.

VISAS

Electronic Tourist visas are available online for US\$25. You print them yourself and keep them in your passport at <https://mfaic.gov.kh/evisa>

Alternatively you can buy visas on arrival at most major immigration ports. The cost is US\$20, but you must make sure you bring at least 2 passport size photos with you for your visa. If you don't, you may face "administration" charges for having your photos taken by immigration.

VACCINATIONS AND MEDICINES

As Cambodia is one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world, we advise you to take the advice of your local healthcare provider about what vaccinations you should have prior to arrival in Cambodia, and what medicines you should take with you. We would recommend anti-malarials to deal with the potentially fatal threat from mosquitos, and we advise that you check as soon as possible that you are adequately protected from Hepatitis A, and Typhoid.

SAFETY CLOTHING

We do not provide riding gear. You must bring your own kit with you. The main reason for this is down to our duty of care to you, and your enjoyment of the experience. We know that people ride to their best ability, and enjoy their saddle time most, when they are comfortable.

If you bring your own gear, it will fit you, it won't stink (unless you are a bit of a soap-dodger), it will be worn-in and something you are used to wearing and consequently you won't be focusing on the negatives of wearing ill-fitting and uncomfortable equipment instead of soaking up the whole experience you have come to Cambodia for.

There will be access to a limited stock of safety clothing if really needed (in the case where riders have forgotten to pack something), but we do not recommend using anything but your own kit. If you'd like further advice on what to bring, please just email us or call us on 07786 394001, with your specific concerns.

WHAT YOU MUST BRING

Crash helmet (ACU Gold Standard)

Please make sure your lid conforms to this standard. Cambodian Law states that you must wear a motorcycle helmet. Though this law is widely flouted by a majority of locals, your insurance and our duty of care to you dictate that you must wear your crash helmet at all times whilst riding your motorcycle.

BOOTS

Full calf length motocross / enduro boots – Your boots (aside from your lid) are probably the most essential part of off-road clothing. The most common injuries suffered by off-road riders are foot, ankle and lower leg injuries. Please make sure you bring a sturdy pair of suitable boots with you, as you will not be riding without them.

GOGGLES

A must really, even if you have a visor on your lid, due to how dusty the trail can get.

FACEMASK

A decent bandana, neck tube or equivalent to help keep the Red Dirt on the outside of your respiratory system.

BODY ARMOUR

We do recommend that you bring your own knee guards, body / back armour and elbow guards – but it is your decision. You will be riding mixed terrain, so body armour is definitely advised.

HYDRATION

We will ensure that you have plenty of opportunity to stop and rehydrate during your ride, but we still strongly advise you to invest in a camelbak or equivalent and bring it with you so you can take on water during your ride, whenever you feel the need. Riding in tropical heat means you dehydrate quickly!

WHEN SHOULD I BOOK MY FLIGHTS?

It's up to you when to book your flights. However, as the Red Dirt Tour will only take place subject to a minimum of 5 riders signing up, we strongly recommend that you book flexible tickets that allow for cancellation. Please bear in mind that even riders who have paid a deposit can still pull out of the Red Dirt Tour 2013 due to unforeseen circumstances. With this in mind, you will be informed once the minimum sign-up has been reached, as we suggest you only book flights once that minimum number of riders has been confirmed.

THINGS TO SEE IN SIEM REAP - NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE

Angkor Wat. This ancient religious monument is a symbol of national pride for most Cambodians, and once you have walked through the causeway gate at Angkor Wat, you will understand exactly why they are so proud of this 1000-year-old testament to their ancestors.

Phnom Kulen. This is the most sacred mountain in Cambodia, and is less travelled by tourists. There is a breath-taking waterfall near the peak, and a huge reclining Buddha that has been carved into a natural stone boulder not far below the summit.

OUR PROMISE TO YOU

Mototrails want you to know that if you have any questions at all, we will do our utmost to answer them to your satisfaction. We are here to answer your queries before you make a booking, and once you have booked with us we remain just as dedicated to you should you have any further concerns that need addressing.

We are happy to talk you through everything you need to know, including how to get the best flight deals, what sort of food is available in Cambodia, the people, the culture... whatever your query, we'll do our best to answer it – and if we don't know, we'll be honest about it!

YOUR SAFETY

Is it safe? Dirt bike riding carries inherent risks which we all know about. However, you must bear in mind some other factors, that may have an effect on your decision to ride with us. We address them below.

Landmine Legacy. Due to its history of conflict, Cambodia does have unexploded ordnance in the ground. Demining is a continued effort, and most areas are marked if they are unsafe. However, our local guides use well trodden paths, and keep up to date with local information and developments. General rule is stick to paths.

Medical Facilities. Cambodian hospitals and medical care is third-world standard at best (good at cutting things off – but not at sewing them back on!). There will be at least one First Aider on hand throughout the trip to provide basic emergency first aid. If there is a medical emergency, you must have travel insurance that will cover a helicopter ride to Thailand (excellent medical facilities).

OUR CONTACT DETAILS

You can call us on 07786 394001, email us at RedDirt@mototrails.co.uk or write to us at 45 Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, TN10 3DS.

Mototrails Limited are proud organisers of the Red Dirt Tour.
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