

WHV – Angkor

Angkor, Cambodia

◆ Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List since 1992

10/08/2016 – 22/08/2016



Angkor, in Cambodia's northern province of Siem Reap, is one of the most important archaeological sites of Southeast Asia. It extends over approximately 400 square kilometres and consists of scores of temples, hydraulic structures (basins, dykes, reservoirs, canals) as well as communication routes. For several centuries Angkor, was the centre of the Khmer Kingdom. With impressive monuments, several different



© OUR PLACE World Heritage Collection

ancient urban plans and large water reservoirs, the site is a unique concentration of features testifying to an exceptional civilization. Temples such as Angkor Wat, the Bayon, Preah Khan and Ta Prohm, exemplars of Khmer architecture, are closely linked to their geographical context as well as being imbued with symbolic significance. The architecture and layout of the successive capitals bear witness to a high level of social order and ranking within the Khmer Empire. Angkor is therefore a major site exemplifying cultural, religious and symbolic values, as well as containing high architectural, archaeological and artistic significance. The park is inhabited, and many villages, some of whom the ancestors are dating back to the Angkor period are scattered throughout the park. The population practices agriculture and more specifically rice cultivation.

Project objectives: Implemented for the first time in the framework of the World Heritage Volunteers initiative, the project aims at involving the local community and national and international volunteers in educational and hands-on activities that promote awareness to preserve the heritage monuments and the important biodiversity patrimony of Angkor site. Since local villages are integral part of the property and tourism represents a major resource, but also a potential threat to the site and the livelihoods of those living in and around the inscribed area, the project also aims at supporting the implementation of a code of conduct for visitors and communities at the site, as well as promoting sustainable tourism and home stay.

Project activities: The volunteers will take part in the work of three different international teams of experts active in the northern area of the property, learning hands-on about the techniques used in the archeological digs and the stone conservation process, and contributing to the cataloguing of the indigenous natural species that constitute the site's great biodiversity and are traditionally also used as medicinal plants. The volunteers will also run heritage education workshops with local youth and tourists, and contribute to the improvement of the village's home-stay sustainable tourism programs.

Partners: Authority for the Protection of the Site and Management of the Region of Angkor (APSARA) and the Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia (UYFC).