

CAMBODIA

DECEMBER 28, 2006 - JANUARY 9, 2007

© 2006

The expansive forests and untouched wetlands of this small country harbor some of the rarest species and races of birds and mammals in the region, making it one of the most exciting new birding destinations in Asia. The Cambodian people are indeed custodians of a very special natural heritage. In recent years a number of hugely exciting discoveries have been made including a population of the near mythical Giant Ibis, a new species – the Mekong Wagtail, and a breeding population of the rapidly declining eastern race of Sarus Crane. Other highly threatened species can be seen in the northern plains of Cambodia. A breeding population of White-shouldered Ibis has been found in the northern province of Preah Vihear along with White-winged Duck, Green Peafowl, White-rumped Falcon and White-rumped and Slender-billed vultures. On the wetlands around the huge Tonle Sap Lake, the biggest breeding colonies of waterbirds in Southeast Asia represent one of the finest birding spectacles in Asia. Healthy populations of Greater Adjutant (which is declining alarmingly elsewhere), the still relatively common Lesser Adjutant, Milky Stork, Spot-billed Pelican and many others can be observed nesting at Preak Toal on the amazing Tonle Sap Lake, fed by the monsoonal back up from the Mekong River. The most extensive grasslands remaining in Southeast Asia are where we will look for some more scarce beauties, in particular the splendid Bengal Florican, as well the scarce Manchurian Reed Warbler. This is surely a dream list of birds!

On our hugely successful 2006 inaugural tour of Cambodia we were one of the first bird tour groups to compile a bird list which included rarely seen goodies such as a pair of breeding Milky Storks, White-shouldered and Giant ibis, Mekong Wagtail, the rapidly declining Black-faced Spoonbill, and the highly skulking Manchurian Reed Warbler. A number of other species, that we usually consider ourselves lucky to see one or two of in neighbouring countries, were seen in abundance—Rufous-winged Buzzard, Black-headed Woodpecker and Comb Duck being just a small sample. The dry savanna woodlands of Cambodia harbour a plethora of hugely attractive birds and other animals.

This tour offers a unique opportunity to see some of the world's rarest birds. Our accommodation in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh is of a high standard; in fact these lovely hotels are just one highlight of the tour. Our short expedition to a northern village will involve some travel on dusty, dirt roads and two nights of basic, shared accommodation. That said, there is no doubt this is a wonderful experience!

As if the birds of Cambodia are not exciting enough, we also have the opportunity to visit some of the greatest surviving architectural monuments of Asia—the temples of the ancient city of Angkor. They represent the heart and soul of Cambodia, harking back to an era of unrivalled influence over the entire region. The Khmer Empire once ruled over south China, Vietnam, Thailand, Burma and Malaysia. Built at the height of the Khmer civilisation from the 8th to the 12th Century, the Angkor complex was erected during a time of extraordinary artistry and we will have ample time to explore and reflect on these architectural masterpieces.

This tour can be taken by itself or in combination with Thailand Highlights (January 8-25, 2007).

December 28-29, Days 1-2: Travel to Bangkok, Thailand. Participants can take any of a number of connections which depart the USA on December 28 and arrive in Bangkok on December 29. Upon arrival and after clearing customs and immigration, participants may proceed to our airport-area hotel where a room will be reserved in your name. Those arriving in Bangkok early enough on December 29 are welcome to join the leaders for dinner.

Participants wanting to avoid the risk of misconnecting with the group or missing dinner should consider arriving in Bangkok on December 28 and spending the night. Upon request, VENT will be happy to assist with any additional lodging arrangements.

NIGHT (December 29): Amari Airport Hotel, Bangkok

December 30, Day 3: Birding at Khok Kam; Afternoon Flight to Siem Reap, Cambodia. This morning we will drive west and south along the Gulf of Siam to the extensive mud flats and salt pans, which line this part of Thailand's coast. Large numbers of shorebirds congregate here in addition to a few coastal specialties. Species we may encounter include Brahminy Kite; possibly Slaty-breasted Rail; Pacific Golden Plover; Greater and Lesser sand plovers; Marsh, Green, Wood and Common sandpipers; Rufous-necked and Temminck's stints; Brown-headed Gull; Gull-billed and Whiskered terns; House Swift; Collared Kingfisher; Red-whiskered Bulbul; Common Tailorbird; Plain Prinia; Flyeater; Long-tailed Shrike; and Brown-throated Sunbird. In addition we may find one of nature's most extraordinary members, the Spoonbilled Sandpipers. In recent years this blue-ribbon bird has been found fairly regularly wintering here in addition to such other shorebird gems as Nordmann's Greenshank, Asian Dowitcher, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Long-toed Stint and Great Knot.

In the late afternoon we will return to the airport in time for the 6:00 p.m. departure of Bangkok Airways Flight 942 which is scheduled to arrive in Siem Reap at 7:10 p.m. Located just north of mighty Tonle Sap Lake, this charming town is characterised by colonial French architecture and shady boulevards lining the Siem Reap River.

NIGHT: Angkor Village Resort, Siem Reap

December 31, Day 4: Morning and Afternoon at Angkor Wat, Preah Khan and Angkor Thom. We start our tour of Cambodia with a visit to the magnificent ancient complex of Angkor Wat, and to Angkor Thom and other nearby temples. In particular Ta Prohm is a wonderful experience as it has been left to the elements with strangler fig roots snaking around the crumbling walls and ancient statues of the temple. The birding in the beautiful forests of Angkor is a great adjunct to this experience with large congregations of Oriental Pied Hornbills, Red-breasted and Alexandrine parakeets, super views of Black Baza, numerous Asian Barred Owlets, and Hill Mynas. In the drier forests we may find Greater Flameback, Black-hooded Orioles and Hainan Blue Flycatchers. Lesser Adjutants can often be seen flying overhead. This whole area is alive with birds, culture and history.

NIGHT: Angkor Village Resort, Siem Reap

January 1, Day 5: Ang Trapeang Thmor Wildlife Reserve. This morning we drive westwards toward the Thai border to visit a very special reserve. This old reservoir and surrounding forest harbours a very rare population of the Southeast Asian race of Sarus Crane. At times this magnificent bird can be seen in large flocks of up to 100 birds! In addition we should encounter big gatherings of Comb Ducks, Lesser Whistling Ducks, Painted Storks, and Pheasant-tailed and Bronze-winged jacanas. In the dry forests bordering this lush reservoir we may find one of Asia's rarest mammals, the gorgeous Eld's Deer. As we return to Siem Reap, we will stop at the ancient reservoir of West Baray. Along the way it is possible to see Grey-headed Lapwing, Cotton Pygmy-goose, and Stork-billed Kingfisher. You may wish to sample delightful offerings such as deep fried giant water bug, a very popular local delicacy!

NIGHT: Angkor Village Resort, Siem Reap

January 2, Day 6: Drive to Koh Ker; Then to Tmatboey. Today we head out early for our journey to the north, arguably the most exciting part of our tour! We will arrive at the remote outlying temple of Koh Ker in time to enjoy an early breakfast followed by some very exciting birding in the forest surrounding this spectacular temple. The dry dipterocarp forest here supports a very healthy population of woodpeckers, in particular the gargantuan Great Slaty Woodpecker and the rather scarce Black-headed Woodpecker. These forests are home to some of the healthiest populations in Asia of birds such as Rufous-winged Buzzard and Blossom-headed Parakeets. We continue northwards to the remote village of Tmatboey, where we will spend the next two days searching for the critically endangered near-mythical Giant Ibis. To add to the excitement, there is a very good chance of finding White-shouldered Ibis or Pale-capped Pigeon. The villagers here work in conjunction with conservation organisations to preserve these fabulous birds and our presence here is not only very welcome, it is very beneficial to the community. Our visit here will contribute directly to the construction of wells in the village, which help to improve the quality of life in this remote place.

NIGHT: Tmatboey Local House

January 3, Day 7: Full Day in Tmatboey. In the cool of the early morning we venture out of the village into the neighbouring forest. Our plan is to walk to nearby *trapeangs*, or permanent waterholes, where the ibises tend to gather during the dry season. As we walk we will keep an eye out for Yellow-legged and Orange-breasted green pigeons, Shikra, Woolly-necked Stork, Burmese Shrike, Black-hooded Oriole, Small Minivet and White-shouldered Starling. Chinese Francolins are common and often flush up noisily. At the permanent watercourses there is often feverish activity and we may find the very impressive Brown Fish Owl, Oriental Cuckoo, Radde's Warbler, White-crested Laughingthrush, and Tickell's Blue Flycatcher. If we are lucky, we may find Small Buttonquail as we walk through the low grass.

After resting during the heat of midday, we will bird in nearby forest and rice fields in hopes of finding another great rarity, the White-shouldered Ibis. In these slightly more open areas Rufous-winged Buzzard is surprisingly common and large flocks of parakeets fly overhead. As we rest at a *trapeang*, Green Bee-eaters, Eurasian Hoopoes, Green-billed Malkohas, and Rufous Treepies will delight us as they come in for their evening drink.

NIGHT: Tmatboey Local House

January 4, Day 8: Morning in Tmatboey; Afternoon Drive Back to Siem Reap. After another morning birding in these wonderful forests, we will drive slowly back to Siem Reap, this time with a stop for birding and a break at Beng Melea temple, another temple where nature has run riot!

NIGHT: Angkor Village Resort, Siem Reap

January 5, Day 9: Full Day at Prek Toal on Tonle Sap Lake. Tonle Sap Lake is one of the great geographic features of Asia. It is a huge lake fed by the mighty Mekong River, and the flooded forests of Prek Toal on its northern shores host the most numerous breeding colonies of large waterbirds in Southeast Asia. Surrounded by small fishing boats, we cross the huge lake as the sun rises. At the floating village, we transfer to small rowing boats before entering the narrow watercourses and making our way to the colonies of Lesser Adjutants, Painted Storks and Spot-billed Pelicans. As we view this amazing scene, we will search for the rarer Greater Adjutant and the very rare Milky Stork. This is indeed one of the great spectacles of Asia!

NIGHT: Angkor Village Resort, Siem Reap

January 6, Day 10: Search for Bengal Florican Near Kompong Thom. We take our leave from the delightful town of Siem Reap and head southwards to Kompong Cham. En route we will visit grassland areas scattered with villages, near the town of Kompong Thom, where the rare Bengal Florican can be seen. This species is declining

rapidly due to continuing loss of its grassland habitat. The charismatic bird is otherwise found only in India and our presence here in these rural villages, as with Giant Ibis in Tmatboey, will greatly assist its conservation.

NIGHT: Kompong Thom

January 7, Day 11: Drive to Kratie. We drive north along the Mekong, the longest river in Southeast Asia, to the riverside town of Kratie today. As we travel upriver we should encounter Small Pratincoles, River Lapwing, River Tern, Blue-tailed Bee-eaters, Stork-billed Kingfisher, the beautiful Wire-tailed Swallow and White Wagtail. The impressive Gray-headed Fish-Eagle is not uncommon here.

NIGHT: Heng Heng Hotel, Kratie

January 8, Day 12: Kratie; Return to Phnom Penh. This morning we will travel upriver from Kratie, where our main target will be the recently discovered Cambodian endemic Mekong Wagtail. This highly localised and delightful species, which was first described in 2001, can be seen alongside the very rare Irrawaddy Dolphin, which we will hope to see as we travel on the Mekong by boat.

After a leisurely lunch we will drive south to Phnom Penh, Cambodia's charming capital, often described as the most beautiful city in Asia.

NIGHT: Juliana Hotel, Phnom Penh

January 9, Day 13: Depart Cambodia. We will transfer to the Phnom Penh airport in time for the 9:20 a.m. departure of Siem Reap Airways Flight 501 which is scheduled to arrive in Bangkok at 10:30 a.m. Participants not continuing on Thailand Highlights can connect with various departing flights and connections to the USA .

Participants continuing on Thailand Highlights have the day at leisure in Bangkok before meeting your leaders and fellow participants in the evening.

TOUR LEADERS: Susan Myers and Dion Hobcroft

Susan D. Myers absolutely loves birding and traveling in Asia. As she says, "The combination of incredible and diverse wildlife, ancient and fascinating cultures, and the best food in the world is unique to this amazing continent." For the last 15 years Susan has led tours throughout the Orient, including several tours and expeditions in the Indian subcontinent, seven tours to Vietnam, countless trips to the Malay Peninsula and Borneo, plus many other tours in India, Sri Lanka, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, Taiwan, Cambodia, and the Philippines. David Bishop comments, "Susan lives and breathes birding and the natural history of Asia." Her passion and enthusiasm for all aspects of natural history, especially birds and butterflies, began in early childhood, and she has been studying the fauna of Australia and Asia for over 20 years. Susan's experiences in Asia started at an early age when a short trip to Singapore cast a spell on her, never to be broken. Her first sighting of a sunbird in the tropical rainforest led to the purchase of the first edition of *The Birds of South East Asia*, which she memorized before the age of 13! After her university studies in biological sciences, Susan moved to Japan where she lived for four years, learning the language and studying the natural history and culture; she has traveled there regularly ever since. Once a qualified nursing practitioner, she has also worked as a scuba dive instructor on Australia's Great Barrier Reef in Queensland, showing international visitors this marine marvel. Susan loves to explore new areas, and has recently undertaken scouting trips to Cambodia, Taiwan, Sumatra, and Halmahera. She has published many papers and articles on ornithology and general ecology in a variety of respected magazines and scientific journals. Susan's deep affection for and appreciation of Asia and its wildlife, her special language skills, and her understanding of the different cultures of this region ensure an extra dimension to any tour.

Dion Hobcroft has been working for VENT since 2001. He has led tours to Australia, New Guinea, Bhutan, India, Southwest Pacific, China, Japan, and the Bering Sea. His informative and relaxed nature, combined with sharp eyes and ears, have established Dion as a favorite of many tour participants. A birder since the age of

seven, Dion has birded extensively throughout the Asia-Pacific region, North America, Argentina, and Antarctica. His field studies for over 30 years on birds and other terrestrial vertebrates have allowed him to amass an extraordinary knowledge of the biodiversity in these areas. Born in Tasmania and based in Sydney, Dion has traveled widely throughout Australia listing over 750 species, placing him in the top echelons of Australian birders. He is very tuned-in to the songs and calls of bird species in the Asia-Pacific region, and specializes in rare and elusive species. He is delighted to show these skulking rarities to his travel companions. Dion has published several papers on field ornithology and is currently a member of the Australian and New South Wales Rare Bird Committees, and is, occasionally, the voice behind *Birdline NSW*. A popular speaker with natural history societies, Dion has undertaken work with the Australian Antarctic Division, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Australian Museum, CSIRO, Sydney University, James Cook University, Taronga Zoo, and the Zoology Research Unit of the Queensland Department of Primary Industry. Dion lives with his wife, Lise, and young daughter, Grace, in Lewisham, Sydney.

TOUR SIZE: This tour will be limited to 12 participants.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS: The fee for this tour is **\$4895** per person in double occupancy from Bangkok (ends in Phnom Penh). This includes all meals beginning with dinner on Day 2 to dinner on Day 12, lodging during the tour, ground transportation during the tour, and guide services provided by the tour leaders. The tour fee does not include flights from your home to Bangkok and return, the commercial flights from Bangkok to Siem Reap and from Phnom Penh to Bangkok (see **AIR INFORMATION** below), airport departure taxes, alcoholic beverages, special gratuities, phone calls, laundry, or items of a personal nature. Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration a small party supplement may have to be charged.

The single supplement for this tour is **\$455**. You will be charged a single supplement if you desire single accommodations or if you prefer to share but have no roommate and we cannot provide one for you. Please note that this fee does not cover nor guarantee single accommodations at Tmatboey on Days 6 and 7 (see **TMATBOEY ACCOMMODATIONS** section below). However, your preference will be noted and accommodated, if possible, at no additional cost.

TMATBOEY ACCOMMODATIONS: We will be staying in a large house consisting of a simple big room in a dormitory style. There are comfortable beds with good quality bedding and mosquito netting in a large open air room. The bathroom and toilet is outside, a short walk. There is no hot water – it's hot so you don't need it. Please bring a small towel. The toilet is a porcelain Asian style loo. There is no electricity available. In the evening, lighting will be supplied by car batteries. There is no generator available for regenerating batteries. The houses are on stilts so you have to walk up and down about ten steps. Please do not wear your shoes inside the house. These accommodations are very simple yet very peaceful and refreshing.

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, complete the VENT registration form and return it with a deposit of \$500 per person (check or money order in US dollars). If registering by phone, the deposit must be received within 10 days or the space will be released. Full payment of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to the tour departure date.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Refunds are made according to the following schedule: If cancellation is made 120 days or more before departure date, the deposit less \$75 per person is refundable. If cancellation is made fewer than 120 days before departure date, no refund is available. This policy and fee schedule also applies to pre-trip and post-trip extensions, as well as any transfers from one tour to another. ***We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance to protect yourself.***

If you cancel:

120 days or more before departure date

Fewer than 120 days before departure date

Your refund will be:

Your deposit minus \$75.

No refund available.

TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE: Application forms for optional coverage for baggage, illness, and trip cancellation can be obtained through the VENT office. We **strongly recommend** that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect yourself against losses due to accidents or illness. Check with your insurance agent regarding coverage you may presently have via other insurance policies that may cover illness during your trip. **Waiver for pre-existing conditions is available, as are other coverages such as terrorism protection; however, stipulations apply, usually requiring the purchase of the insurance soon after registering. Contact the VENT office prior to registration for details.**

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a bond issued by Travelers in the amount of \$50,000. CST #2014998-50.

AIR INFORMATION: Victor Emanuel Travel is a full-service travel agency and wholly owned subsidiary of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). Victor Emanuel Travel will be happy to make any domestic or international air travel arrangements from your home and return. Please feel free to call the VENT office to confirm your air arrangements.

There are two internal commercial flights on this tour, from Bangkok to Siem Reap and from Phnom Penh to Bangkok. We will be happy to obtain these tickets for you. Simply contact the VENT office with your credit card information and we will issue the tickets using the best price available at the time. Please contact us as soon as possible as prices will inevitably rise as the departure date approaches.

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a bond issued by Travelers in the amount of \$50,000. CST #2014998-50.

CLIMATE: Most of our time will be spent in dry tropical lowland forest and wetlands. Cambodia is generally hot and dry at this time of year and the forests do not offer a great deal of shade. Night time temperatures can be hot in the north but generally cool enough for a light jacket. It is unlikely that we will encounter any rain.

CLOTHING: Please remember that dark-browns, dark-blues and dark-greens are less likely to startle birds and mammals. PLEASE, no bright colors or loud, crackling plastics. Bring light-weight and predominantly cotton field clothing; a warm sweater; a hat with a good brim to keep the sun off while you are seated in a canoe; a waterproof poncho, jacket or the like; a small collapsible umbrella; and comfortable boots with rugged soles. You should also have relatively thick socks to cushion your feet during long walks. It is ideal that you buy them calf-length so that you can tuck the bottoms of your trousers into them as protection against scratches and "bugs." A dressier outfit such as a sport coat, dress or pant suit may be more presentable at the Siem Reap and Bangkok hotels.

CURRENCY: Riel (r). The Riel is accepted in remote areas but the de facto and preferred currency is the US dollar. Change is often given in Riel. Visa, MasterCard, Diners Club and American Express are accepted at the larger hotels.

DOCUMENTS: A passport valid for at least six months beyond your planned departure is required for United States citizens to enter Thailand and Cambodia. Upon arrival in Cambodia, a one month tourist visa is obtained very quickly. The cost is \$US20 and a passport photo is required (subject to change without notice). Non U.S. citizens should check with their consulate/embassy for instructions.

EQUIPMENT: You should pack a pair of binoculars (in your hand-luggage) that are in good repair along with a belt or day pack (good for carrying books, sunscreen, extra film, etc.). Your leader will have a spotting scope, but if you have one and wish to bring it, please feel free to do so. Other items to bring should include a flashlight or headlamp, water bottle or small canteen, alarm clock, sunglasses and suntan lotion. It is wise to carry several copies of a list of your expensive equipment for customs inspectors. This list should include a description of the object,

including the serial number if possible, the place of purchase and the price. Visitors to Cambodia are rarely challenged about such equipment unless there appears to be an inordinate amount of it.

HEALTH: Tap water should be avoided. In smaller towns and rural areas, assume the water is unsafe and stick with bottled or boiled drinks. Your tour leader will have a supply of iodine tablets for water purification, although bottled spring water is widely available. Sanitation throughout Cambodia is relatively very good compared to most tropical areas of the world. Most hot, freshly cooked food should be safe, but peel fresh fruit and raw vegetables before eating and make sure meat is cooked thoroughly. Be sure to bring all necessary prescription drugs, as well as aspirin, antacids, and a supply of antihistamines should you develop a cold.

No vaccinations are required; however, cholera, typhoid and tetanus should be current. Gamma globulin may be taken to prevent hepatitis. Malaria is present, including the chloroquine-resistant strain. There are several options for malaria prophylaxis including Mefloquine (Lariam), Malarone, and Doxycycline. These medications are available by prescription only. Please consult your physician or local travel clinic for recommendations. You may contact the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** in Atlanta (CDC) which operates a 24-hour automated travelers' health hotline at 877-FYI-TRIP. You may also visit the traveler's health section of their website, www.cdc.gov/travel.

Insects such as mosquitoes and sand-flies can be a problem although scarce in the dry season. This is best dealt with by wearing long-sleeved shirts of sufficient thickness and density of weave that the "bugs" cannot bite through, and long trousers tucked into long socks. We also recommend *CUTTER'S LOTION* in the squeeze bottle or pump-style *OFF*.

LUGGAGE: International flights limit baggage to two checked pieces and one carry-on per person. The carry-on must be able to fit beneath the seat or in the overhead luggage compartment. When **traveling** it is suggested that you wear clothing and a pair of shoes suitable for birding in case your baggage is delayed. It is wise to carry several copies of a list of your expensive equipment—cameras, binoculars, tape recorders, spotting scopes, etc.—for customs inspectors. This list should include a description of the object (include the serial number if possible), place of purchase, and price. Visitors to Thailand are rarely challenged about such equipment, but U.S. customs may be more difficult. However, if you are taking an inordinately large amount of equipment abroad with you, it is advisable to declare this to a customs officer before you leave the United States. **When packing, please consider those who will have to lift and carry your bags. Two medium-weight bags are incomparably better than one huge, almost-impossible-to-lift suitcase.**

MISCELLANEOUS:

Thailand Departure Tax - 500 Baht (approx. \$13 USD) payable in Baht only (subject to change without notice)

Cambodia Departure Tax - \$25 USD (subject to change without notice)

Electricity - 220 volts, 50 cycles

Language – Khmer (Cambodian), English, some older people speak French.

Time - 12 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time

SUGGESTED READING: Our website at www.ventbird.com offers an affiliated online store that carries a wide variety of items for birding and nature lovers including over 6,000 books. A portion of the sales from the store benefits the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. You might also want to visit such other online stores as www.amazon.com, and for those out-of-print and hard-to-find titles, www.abebooks.com or www.buteobooks.com, which specializes in ornithology books.

Caulfield, C. *In the Rainforest*. London: Heinemann, 1984. An exceptionally accurate and insightful account of whom is doing what to our rainforests -- and the repercussions.

Hudson, C. *The Killing Fields*. A very moving account of the distressing events of the war. Also an excellent film.

Keown, D. *Buddhism – a very short introduction*. OUP: Oxford, 2000.

Cambodia, Page 8

McNeely, J. and P. S. Wachtel. *Soul of the Tiger*, 1988. An exceptional book, quite unlike anything else written.

Put together by two international conservationists who know the people and nature of the Orient as well as any.

Parr, J. W. K. *Large Mammals of Thailand*. Sarakadee Press, Thailand. 2003.

Ray, N. *Cambodia*. Lonely Planet: Melbourne, 2002.

Richards, P.W. *The Tropical Rain Forest*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981.

Robson, Craig. *A Guide to the birds of Southeast Asia*. Princeton University Press, 2000. **This is THE book to use on tour in Cambodia.**

Rooney, D. *Angkor – An Introduction to the Temples*. Passport Books. 1997.

TIPPING: Tipping (restaurants, porters, drivers, and local guides) is included on VENT tours. However, if you feel one or both of your VENT leaders or any local guides have given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are not expected and are entirely optional.

RESPONSIBILITY: Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc. (VENT) and/or its Agents act only as agents for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, or airplane and assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect in any vehicle or for any reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. VENT and its agents can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. The right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute leaders on any tour. When this is necessary, notification will be given to tour members. No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The prices of the tours are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on May 24, 2006 and are subject to adjustment in the event of any change therein. The right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely. The airlines concerned and their agents and affiliates are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their aircraft. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or passenger. The services of any I.A.T.A.N. carrier may be used for these tours, and transportation within the United States may be provided by any member carrier of the Airline Reporting Corporation.