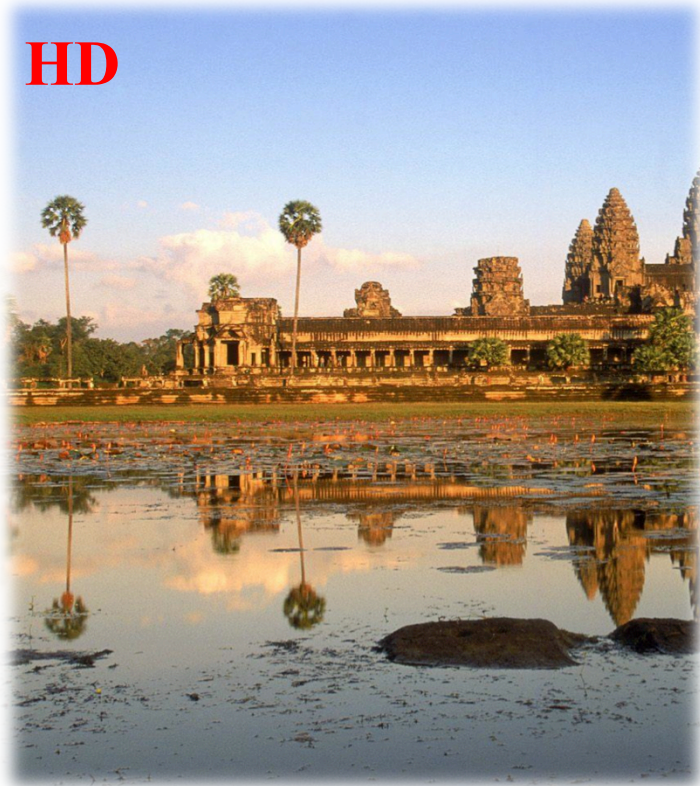




Cambodia : The Temples of Angkor



Cambodia is home to some of the most beautiful archaeological sites in Asia, the most famous are the Ankor Palaces: Ankor Wat, Ankor Thom etc...but there are also some lesser known sites to be found amongst a wealth of Temples spread out through the tropical forest.

The site is immense, the largest archaeological park in the world, and visitors are free to walk through the forest, discovering temples, a walls, and a statues along their way.

The Mountain Temple of Ankor Wat is raised up on a set of terraces, built on top of an artificial mound, designed to represent the summits where the Gods and monarchs enjoyed their leisure time.

The Temple is the chef d'œuvre of Suryarman II (1113 – 1150), whose brilliant reign is often compared to that of the French King Louis XIV. Suryarman ruled over all of Southern Indochina, at a time when the genius of the Khmer people had reached a level of harmonious perfection.

The Baphoun temple was constructed on different levels, in order to represent the World of Gods located above that of the Kings. Towers decorated with gigantic smiling figures, stand over the lower levels, where see hundreds of metres of low relief sculptures, show scenes of everyday life in ancient times: dancing, and great wars, such as the naval Battle against the Chams.

The Bantey Srei temple is one of the best known, it is built of pink Sandstone, and carved with stunning images of Apsara, and groups of Young warriors. The romantic Ta Prohm Temple, gives us an idea of the state the other temples were in before they were restored, with creepers and trees growing over, and through, the original stones.

We head off to discover Siem Reap, a village which has been booming, since the end of the War and the last of the Khmer Rouge attacks in 1994. Here, traces of the traditional Khmer culture remain, the architecture and unusual sites of the village give us a good idea of its rich history.

Directed by Jacques VICHET

A documentary of 52'

French Version
English Version

High Definition
HD Cam & Digital Betacam 16/9