

A line of dancers in traditional yellow attire performing a dance at night. The dancers are wearing long, flowing yellow dresses with silver belts and traditional headpieces. They are standing in a line, facing right, with their arms raised in a graceful pose. The background is dark, and the scene is lit with warm, golden light.

amansara

Seasonal Calendar  
September to December 2024

# Festivals and cultural experiences

At the heart of Indochina, nestled among Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam, Cambodia is a country rich in cultural heritage. It boasts remarkable monuments such as the Angkor temples, a deep-rooted Buddhist culture, and vibrant community traditions.

Festivals play a significant role in Khmer culture, reflecting both Buddhism and various colonial and cultural influences.

From September to December 2024, Cambodia, including Siem Reap, will celebrate its regional festivals. Amansara has prepared curated experiences and celebrations to enhance these vibrant festivities.



# September & October

## **Pchum Ben Festival**

27 September to 6 October 2024

Pchum Ben is a time when Cambodians honor their ancestors and pay respects to the spirits of the deceased. Families gather at pagodas to offer food, prayers, and other offerings to help their ancestors achieve peace and liberation from suffering in the afterlife. The festival is marked by communal ceremonies, traditional music, and various cultural practices that highlight the importance of family and remembrance in Khmer culture.

During this period, many people visit their hometowns to participate in the rituals and spend time with their families. The atmosphere is both solemn and festive, reflecting the deep spiritual significance of the occasion.

## **Pity Rab Bat or Alms Offering**

During this day, a traditional Cambodian festival celebrated in Siem Reap and other parts of Cambodia, typically coinciding with the Pchum Ben Festival. It involves unique rituals and practices that are deeply rooted in local culture and traditions.

In Siem Reap, the atmosphere is both reverent and festive, with many locals dressed in traditional clothing. Temples and pagodas are decorated, and special events are held to celebrate the festival's significance.

At Amansara, during the day will invite seven monks from seven pagodas in town to our house to celebrate this alms offering ceremony. Guests are invited to partake in the chanting and blessing with Amansanti for this special cultural event.

## **Boh Bay Ben or Feeding of the Ancestors**

5 October 2024

At four in the morning everyone gathers at the pagoda with offerings of sticky rice, which they toss on the ground in small portions. This symbolises their action of offering food to their ancestors. This spiritual activity has been practiced from generation to generation. According to local beliefs, the lives that we live after death are predicted by the actions that we take during our life.

Amansara guests are invited to partake in this ceremony and witness the local cultural practice at nearby Buddhist monastery.



# November

## **Bon Om Touk Festival**

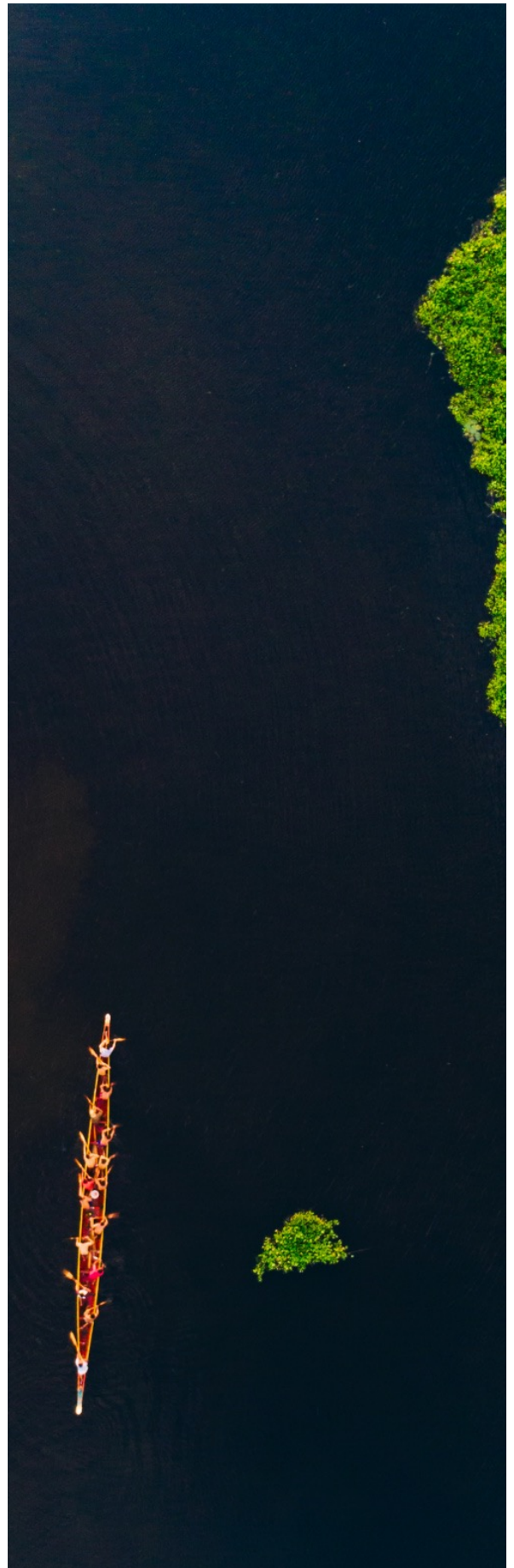
14 to 16 November 2024

Bon Om Touk, also known as the Water Festival or Cambodian Boat Racing Festival, is one of Cambodia's most vibrant and widely celebrated events. In Siem Reap, this festival is a highlight of the cultural calendar, drawing both locals and tourists to enjoy its festivities.

The festival heralds the end of the monsoon season and the reversal of the Tonle Sap River's flow, marking a joyous celebration of Cambodia's aquatic heritage. At the heart of the festivities are the exhilarating boat races, where teams row long, elegantly decorated boats. The races, set against the backdrop of the Tonle Sap River, draw large, enthusiastic crowds who cheer on their preferred teams.

In addition to the boat races, the festival is enriched by traditional performances and music that highlight Cambodia's cultural legacy. Local pagodas and community centres play host to a variety of events, contributing to the festival's vibrant and celebratory atmosphere.

Amansara guests are invited to experience this part of Khmer culture and partake in the Bandaet Pratip floating candles celebration. The resort can also arrange the excursion to oversee the boat racing along the river.



# December

## **Angkor Half Marathon**

1 December 2024

Since 1996, the Angkor Wat World Heritage Site has hosted runners from across the globe for the Angkor Wat International Half Marathon. This event aims to support the prohibition of anti-personnel landmines and their inhumane use. Entry fees are allocated to charities that aid landmine victims by providing prosthetic limbs, social reintegration programmes, and support for other critical causes such as education and disease prevention in Cambodia.

**Distances:** The event typically features various race categories, including the half marathon (21.1 km), 10 km, 5 km, and a fun run, catering to runners of all abilities.

## **Festive Celebration**

22 December 2024 to 1 January 2025

Experience a festive journey with Amansara from 22 December 2024 to 1 January 2025, featuring a range of activities that highlight Cambodia's rich cultural tapestry. Discover the magic of this ancient city through vibrant live performances and exquisite culinary delights.

The New Year's Eve celebration culminates in an unforgettable evening at the historic Prasat Kravan Temple. Enjoy captivating cultural displays and a gourmet dining experience, all set in the serene glow of candlelight.

Throughout the festive period, Amansara provides bespoke experiences and private dining arrangements for you to enjoy with your loved ones.

Reservation essential





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Road to Angkor  
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