



CAMBODIA

Facts at a Glance

Officially - **Kingdom of Cambodia**, Khmer - **Preăhréachéanachâkr Kâmpŭchéa**,
French - **Royaume de Cambodge**,

formerly (1970–76) **Khmer Republic**, (1976–79) **Democratic Kampuchea**, or (1979–89)
People's Republic of Kampuchea,

Capital: Phnom Penh.

Area: 181,000 square km ; 74 percent of the land is forested and the remainder
cultivable. Cambodia is bordered by Vietnam to the east and Thailand to the west and
northwest. It shares a short frontier with Laos. Cambodia's maximum length from north to
south is 450 km, and its maximum width from east to west is 580 km.



Population: 10.9 million (1999), projected 16.5 million (2025).

Language: The official language is Khmer; French also spoken.

Ethnic groups: Khmer, with Vietnamese and Chinese minorities.

Religion: The principal religion is Theravada Buddhism.

Flag: Horizontally striped blue-red-blue national flag featuring, in white, the main building of the temple, Angkor Wat.



In different artistic representations, the central building of Angkor Wat appeared on Khmer national flags since the 19th century. The first flag was red bordered in blue with the temple in white. The flag was "modernized" in 1948 by adoption of unequal horizontal stripes of dark blue, red, and dark blue, and the temple was altered to correspond more closely to the original. That flag continued in use after Cambodia became independent. The end of the monarchy and the proclamation of the Khmer Republic resulted in a new flag in October 1970.



Communist rebels first used the 1948–70 flag but came to power in April 1975 beneath a plain red flag. When their Democratic Kampuchea adopted its constitution in January 1976, a three-towered yellow temple silhouette was placed in the centre of the red flag, only to be replaced by a five-towered yellow temple when Vietnamese-supported forces proclaimed the People's Republic of Kampuchea in 1979.



Rival "State of Cambodia" (Khmer Rouge) and "Cambodia" (Vietnamese) governments established further flag adaptations prior to the United Nations administration, which flew a light blue flag with a silhouette map of the country in the centre. The United Nations initiated general elections by 1993. The flag of 1948–70 was again hoisted on June 30 of that year.

Climate: Tropical, humid climate with a rainy season between May and November. Heaviest rainfall in September-October; Dry season between April and December.

Currency: Riel.

Time zone: GMT +7.

Railways: There are two 1,000 mm-gauge single track main lines with a total length of 649 km.

Roads: In 1997, the total road network was 35,769 km in length, of which 4,165 km were highways and 3,604 km were secondary roads. About 7.5 percent of the road network was paved.

Inland waterways: The major routes are along the Mekong River and up the Tonle Sap river into the Tonle Sap, covering about 2,400 km.

(Source: Europa World Year Book 2001; The Encyclopaedia Britannica 2002; The State of World Population 1999, UNFPA)