



TOM HARPER

River Journeys

ABOUT TOM HARPER

RIVER JOURNEYS

SHIPS

REQUEST A BROCHURE

COMMUNITY

JOURNEY SUPPORT

CONTACT US

Support Center

FOR NO HASSLE SERVICE CALL  
1-855-464-2773

&lt; Tom's News

« Prev | Next »

January 16, 2014

## Explore Mysterious Angkor Wat, If You Dare

In the dim light of early morning we climbed stairs to a high platform attached to a tree, feeling slightly underdressed in the shorts we'd worn in anticipation of the day's heat. Gingerly stepping across a gap, we lowered ourselves to the teetering box-like seat atop the elephant that would carry us up Bakheng Hill.

White-knuckled, we hung on for dear life as our elephant wrangler urged the beast forward along the path. But, when a few



moments had passed without disaster, we surrendered to the swaying motion and began to look about us. Then it hit home—we were riding an elephant in Cambodia! Our conveyance lumbered along, climbing up and up, finally depositing us near some temple ruins where a guide waved us toward a view point. There, we watched transfixed as a golden sunrise slowly illuminated the awe-inspiring sight of

the Temple of Angkor Wat below.

We on the product development team at Tom Harper River Journeys have the enviable job of trying out every activity and service provider that goes into our adventures, making sure it is right for our guests. This sunrise elephant ride is but one of the exciting and unforgettable activities we have planned for you at Siem Reap as part of our [Vietnam, Cambodia and Mekong River journey](#).

Over two days you will explore the Angkor Archaeological Park, named as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1992. This grouping of temples built between the 9th and 15th centuries by the Khmer people is considered to be one of the most significant archaeological sites in Southeast Asia. The most well known of the structures is [Angkor Wat](#); a study in symmetry with its five central towers and concentric, rectangular walled enclosures surrounded by a forbidding moat. At Ta Prohm, an eerie calm pervades the place as you tread sacred ground where massive tree roots and jungle vines slowly pry apart stone structures that have stood for over six centuries. Try not to be unnerved by the enormous carved faces that stare at you with unseeing eyes in Bayon Temple. Be sure to have your

[0 Comments](#)

g+1

Tweet

Like

22

### Recent Articles

[The Moselle Valley](#)[Exploring Edinburgh](#)[Experience Europe Your Way](#)[We Love the Loire River Valley](#)[Eastern Europe Odyssey](#)



TOM HARPER

River Journeys

ABOUT TOM HARPER

RIVER JOURNEYS

SHIPS

REQUEST A BROCHURE

COMMUNITY

JOURNEY SUPPORT

CONTACT US

Support Center

picture taken next to one, to capture the sense of scale. Angkor Thom is memorable for its spectacular arched southern gate.

An ancient place like this makes one feel young in comparison.

Gentlemen, channel your inner Indiana Jones as you explore among the temple ruins. Ladies, imagine you are adventurer and antiquities hunter, Lady Lara Croft, as played by Angelina Jolie in the movie Tomb Raider. Incidentally, scenes from the movie were filmed here, including the view of Angkor Wat from the top of Bakheng Hill.

We have reserved one of our favorite outings for your final evening here—a sunset ride along the walls of Angkor Thom in a traditional gondola boat. Just talking about it makes us want to go and do it all again. However, duty calls and we must be off researching other great adventures. It's a tough job, but somebody has to do it.

### Leave a comment

Name\*

Email\*

Comment

*Comments have to be approved before showing up.*

POST COMMENT



TOM HARPER

[HOME](#) [PRIVACY POLICY](#) [TOUR CONTRACT](#) [GROUPS](#) [SIGN UP](#) [CONTACT US](#) [CAREERS](#) [FAQ](#) [PRESS](#) [AGENTS](#)

[Reserve Online or Call Toll Free 1-855-464-2773](#)

© 2015 Tom Harper Cruises, LLC | All Rights Reserved



Click for Review