



អង្គការខ្មែរជំនាន់ថ្មី

**Khmer New Generation Organization (KNGO)**

#379, Gr.25, Bospo Village, Odambang I Commune, Sangker District,  
Battambang Province, Cambodia.  
Email: kngocamb@gmail.com  
[www.kngocambodia.org](http://www.kngocambodia.org)

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## **KNGO Volunteer Village Stay Information**

**Who we are:**

KNGO (Khmer New Generation Organization) is a Non-Government Organization, which aims to provide free education and vocational skills to rural children and adults in Bospo village, Battambang, Cambodia.

For visiting volunteers, KNGO provides the opportunity for people to not only visit and assist in the educational programs of the school but to also live within the Bospo village community under the care of KNGO Executive Director, Saveth's family home stay. In the village you will gain unique insight into the traditional Cambodian way of life, enjoy the family's generous hospitality, experience the general day-to-day happenings and eat delicious, healthy, authentic home-cooked Khmer food. Village stays can be arranged for anywhere from 2 days to 6 months in length. For the best experience we'd recommend a stay of at least a week. Please email KNGO to find out more about our volunteer village stays and discuss the details directly with Saveth (or – if preferred you can contact an ex-volunteer via email provided by Saveth). All that we ask is that you please bring enthusiasm, an open attitude, and a desire to experience new things which you'll not discover anywhere else.

**Where we are:**

We are located in Bospo village, which is approximately 15 minutes by road from Battambang. Located in the south-western region of Cambodia, Battambang is approximately 6 hours by road from the capital, Phnom Penh and 4 hours from Siem Reap. You can easily get to the city by the GST, Sorya, Capitol or other major bus companies.

To get to the village either email Saveth before arriving to arrange transportation in advance or take a tuk-tuk or motorbike directly to the village. Alternatively, contact Saveth on 855-(0)92790597 to give the driver exact directions to the village. Costs should be around US\$5 for a tuk-tuk journey.

**Getting Around:**

To get around or into Battambang from the village talk to Saveth about arranging a motorbike or tuk-tuk to pick you up etc – prices will vary depending on the time and if you require a return trip or ask for the driver to wait for you.

The other option is to get around by bicycle. You can arrange free bicycles (depending on numbers and availability) through Saveth's family during your stay and explore the village or the surrounding area or to ride into Battambang. To get into Battambang is straightforward and should take approximately 20-25 minutes and is a beautiful ride through floral village paths, the riverside and the town boulevards.



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#### **Accommodation:**

The accommodation available in the village is offered in a beautiful and spacious local family house approximately 100 meters from KNGO English School. In the house you will have your own room, depending on availability. With a total of only 4 rooms available. Two of the rooms have en-suite while the remainder are shared bathrooms only. However, there is a spacious upper tiled level which can accommodate groups of up to 10 – similar to a luxury dorm. There is electricity in the house but **there is no air-con and hot water** (though you will find that cold showers are more than adequate in Battambang's climate). All bathrooms have western toilets and all rooms have double beds and fans only. The accommodation is managed by Saveth's mother who is very welcoming and friendly. The cost per person is US\$5 a day. There are no restaurants, bars or nightclubs in or around the village so the night life is non-existent. As is the custom in rural villages, evenings are spent at home. **The family does not let visitors out of the house after around 7:30pm.** As there are no street lights the roads into and out of the village are not safe at night. Internet is available at KNGO's office – please ask.

#### **Food:**

If you are staying with us in Bospo, you will eat traditional Khmer food at the family home. It is a great chance to try the authentic home-cooked Khmer cuisine and not just the popularised dishes available at touristy restaurants in the cities. Vegetarians and people with allergies can be catered to – please just let us know in advance. Typically meals will include rice (as it is the staple food), local fresh vegetables and fruits as well as either fish, chicken, pork or beef in any number of delicious dishes. Khmer food within the village will often use local, fresh-water fish. If you don't enjoy fish or trying new things the village stay may be difficult! All meals and snacks are provided and will cost \$8 per person per day for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Bottled water is provided with the accommodation and all water used in cooking and preparation is always boiled, rainwater and is safe to drink. If you have the need for western food – some limited options are provided at the local markets or can be brought in Battambang. Sorry, but the home's traditional kitchen cannot prepare most western dishes!

#### **Cambodian Culture (Dos and Don'ts):**

You'll be welcomed in to the village with the usual traditional Cambodian warmth and generosity – but to make things a little more worry free we've added a few do's and don'ts in order to make things run as smoothly as possible!

##### **Do's**

- Make an effort to learn some basic Khmer. Even just a basic hello, goodbye, thank you and sorry would be greeted with appreciation by the locals.
- Do be respectful and thankful at all times.
- Do always follow the locals lead.
- When offered food or gifts please be accepting and thankful.
- Do always try food, snacks or drinks when offered.
- Do buy small, practical gifts for people to show your appreciation.



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#### **Don'ts**

- Do not touch Cambodian people on the head as this is offensive (even children in games).
- Do not touch Cambodian people with your feet, step over people on the ground or sit or stand with your feet pointing at people as feet are considered to be dirty and offensive.
- Do not point at people and do not motion people to come or follow you with your palm up – rather do this with your palm down.
- Do not wear shoes inside houses. Remove shoes where-ever the locals remove theirs.
- Do not enter someone's house without being invited.
- Do not lose your temper, yell or scream at locals, even when if you're hot, sick of bargaining or plain tired from travel. It is considered embarrassing for yourself and might be scary to others. By all means, scream at your own friends or fellow tourists if the need arises.
- Do not encourage giving money or sweets to children or beggars in or around KNGO – currently begging but we strongly do not encourage this. Have a look at some of the issues around this at blogs such as at <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/travelblogs>

#### **Daily activities and duties:**

The following is a general weekday of what might be expected during the KNGO village stay (this may vary):

- Breakfast will be at Saveth's house at around 8am every morning and will typically be a noodle dish fresh from the market with some fruit or Cambodian snacks. This will change every morning to allow you to sample the many delights on offer!
- Visitors can request to accompany Saveth's wife to the market at 7am to help purchase and bring back the ingredients for the day.
- Some days you may be able to assist Saveth with some other KNGO programs, planning or administration activities. If you have the skills to do this, this work would be much needed and appreciated – speak to Saveth.
- Lunch is usually served at Saveth's house at around noon and will vary depending on what the market has on offer that morning. Please make sure to inform Saveth a day in advance if you will not be back for lunch or dinner so that the appropriate amount of food is brought and prepared.
- At 7:00am students will arrive at KNGO lesson class to learn how to read Khmer, do maths, play games and sing songs. These children will stay until 11: 00am, and they have formal English classes at 1:00. There is a good range of English books available for all abilities for guided reading.
- Children will also arrive at the KNGO office attached to Saveth's house to commence the computer skills classes from 1:00pm up to 5:00pm. These classes are run in Khmer by the volunteer teacher and go for an hour. Six classes are held each afternoon.
- From 1:00pm to 6:00pm volunteers start to work at KNGO English classes take place. Classes go for 1 hour and there are classes from 1-2pm, 2-3pm, 3-4pm, 4-5 and 5-6pm. Currently, there are twelve classes being run by 8 Cambodian



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teachers. Classes are divided by skill level and age with the younger students being earlier in the day. The day before you go to the school please run through the typical lesson structure with Saveth. You'll be an assistant to the teacher and will help with modelling the correct pronunciation, practicing conversation, singing songs and playing games.

- At about 6:30-7:00pm dinner will be served back at Saveth's house. Again, this will typically be dishes using fresh food brought from the market that morning.
- At 7:00pm Saveth will accompany visitors back to the house for the evening and say good night. This is a good time to catch up on some reading or diary writing before bed.

#### **Things you'll need:**

As mentioned, the most important thing you'll need is an enthusiastic attitude and a desire to help us make a difference – but there are a few practical things you'll also need:

- A torch/flashlight
- Sunscreen & insect repellent
- Ear plugs (for early morning wedding parties – particularly during Dec-Feb)
- Spending money (small notes for the market)
- And some good books or music...

#### **Costs and Requirements:**

- Village stay cost is US\$13/person per day (cost includes US\$8 for all meals and US\$5 for accommodation).
- Passport and Visa copies for registration with the local police. If you do not have photocopies then Saveth will arrange this once you get to the village.
- To ensure the utmost safety of the children, please read and sign our KNGO Volunteer Agreement form.

Before you leave, please give us a working email address so that we can keep you updated about KNGO's progress. If you are on Facebook, you can join our group, just search KNGO Volunteer and you will find us. Donations are very much welcome so that we can continue helping children in Battambang but are not obligatory. Please ask for a donation form or check out the website.

Yours Sincerely,

Sun Saveth  
Executive Director  
KNGO Cambodia