

LEARNING ENGLISH WITH HAPS

FOR THOSE LOOKING TO IMPROVE THEIR ENGLISH OR FOR TEACHERS LOOKING FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL TO USE IN THE CLASSROOM, FOLLOW THE LESSON PLAN BELOW ON ONE OF THIS ISSUE'S FEATURED ARTICLES

WARM UP! ▶

1. How often do you get away to the countryside?
2. How is your feeling when you are in the Countryside and what makes you feel that way?
3. How are the habits, moods, or attitudes of Countryside people from city dwellers?

PHRASES PREVIEW

a hectic pace of life	modern city life where people move fast, follow tight schedules and have high stress levels
to be spellbound by	it has my complete attention and I can't look away, it is like magic!
to be under the radar	for something to remain undiscovered or unnoticed by the majority of people (remain a secret)
out in the (rural) sticks	to be out in the countryside and far away from a developed town or city area
fast forward a few (days)	jump forward in time in a story skipping time that is unimportant to talk about

VOCABULARY PREVIEW

1. sprouting (*verb*) new life *growing up out of the ground*
2. gorgeous (*adj.*) *extremely beautiful*
3. ample (*adj.*) *a quantity of something more than I need*
4. locals (*noun*) *people who live in the area of a visited place*
5. tranquility (*noun*) *a peaceful and quiet mood or feeling*

KAMPOT: A SLICE OF RURAL CAMBODIA

BY: SIMON SLATER

Fast forward a few days, and my brother and I, who had linked up with me on his vacation from England and mine from Korea, were clunking along a dusty road out of Kampot town center and into the rural sticks. Lush green fields of rice paddies dotted with water buffalo surrounded us, as did the country's distinctive pom-esque palm trees sporadically sprouting up into the bold blue sky.



If the journey to get there was like a National Geographic magazine come to life, Ganesha, a guesthouse well and truly intertwined with its surroundings, took the exotic escape feeling one step further. We were spellbound by the picturesque riverside yurt we'd booked, and you know when there are mango trees in your backyard, a giant multicolored gecko chilling on the side of your hut, and fireflies acting as night lights that you've found someplace special. Heaven indeed.

It wasn't just Ganesha's beautifully cultivated environment that was worth the journey; rural Kampot is beyond gorgeous. Rent a scooter or push bike and there is ample opportunity to get blissfully lost along the dirt tracks, passing through small settlements whilst interacting with locals, regardless of spoken language differences.

Kampot's tranquility might not last forever. I even heard stirrings that it's the 'next big spot' for travelers. That's ok, because no visit to the same place is always identical. Change is inevitable and there's always another great spot under the radar. What remains, however, is the overwhelmingly warm and open spirit of the Cambodian people, who are usually willing to engage with you if approached. It's harder to do so in more developed parts of the world with the hectic pace of life and people's heads glued to smart phones, which is why spending time in a place like Kampot isn't just a good idea - it's essential.



