

## Introduction Of Koh Kong Province



Koh Kong is the most southwestern province of Cambodia. It is one of the biggest provinces in the whole country with a long undeveloped coastline and a mountainous, forested and largely inaccessible interior, which embraces part of the Cardamom Mountains, the biggest coherent rainforest of Southeast Asia. Its tourist attractions include abundant wildlife; big waterfalls and casinos on the border to Thailand, while an Export Processing Zone and new port facilities are being developed for international trade.

The province is an increasingly popular gateway to Cambodia from Hat Lek in southern Thailand, in part of the reasonably direct access to the port and beach resort town of Sihanouk Ville. While this was previously a grueling journey by boat and pickup on

rough bumpy roads using small ferries at river crossings, the donation by the Thai government of new road infrastructure is improving access greatly.

The name means "Krong Island Province". Its capital is Krong Koh Kong, which is located in the West of the province right next to the Thai border. The city is surrounded with a large forested area connected to the mainland by bridges and ferries. It's generally a quiet town, but there are many reasons to stay in Koh Kong for more than one night such as the nearby islands, rivers, tours into the nature and the buzzing nightlife.

The people of Koh Kong speak mainly Khmer, and most speak some Thai as well. You can also find many Chinese and Vietnamese speakers as well as a lot of broken English. Your stay here will be economical as lodging, food and transportation is relatively cheap here. Please make this place a stop on your travels through S.E. Asia and you won't be disappointed.

## History of Koh Kong

The province is an increasingly popular gateway to Cambodia from Hat Lek in southern Thailand, in part of the reasonably direct the name means "Kong Island Province". Its capital is Krong Koh Kong, which is located in the West of the province right next to the Thai border. The city is surrounded with a large forested area connected to the mainland by bridges and ferries. It's generally a quiet town, but there are many reasons to stay in Koh Kong for more than one night such as the nearby islands, rivers, tours into the nature and the buzzing nightlife. The people of Koh Kong speak mainly Khmer, and most speak some Thai as well. You can also find many Chinese and Vietnamese speakers as well as a lot of broken English. Your stay here will be economical as lodging, food and transportation is relatively cheap here. Please make this place a stop on your travels through S.E. Asia and you won't be disappointed.

Koh Kong province of Cambodia consists of 8 major districts of Koh Kong province are Botum Sakor, Kiri Sakor, Koh Kong, Smach Mean Chey, Mondol Seima, Sre ambel, Thma Bang and Kampong Seila. The Koh Kong province is located in the extreme south of Cambodia. It has a vast coast line and the coast line is still under development. Also it has thick forest cover, mountains interior places most of which are not easily accessible. This is the toughest part of the Cardamom Mountains along with some parts of the Kirirom National Park. Koh Kong is especially famous for its splendid waterfalls and awesome casinos. The ports of the Koh Kong are under development stage in order to promote international sea trade. Koh Kong was regarded as the main gateway to enter Cambodia from Hat Let situated at Thailand east. The border crossing is located at 14 km away from Koh Kong at Cham Yeum. Trip to Koh Kong will be enjoyable and the bridges built on the way to Koh Kong were fantastic and it's now considered to be the landmarks of Koh Kong. The largest bridge in Cambodia is situated in Koh Kong extending about 1,900 meter over the sea. This bridge connects the International Check Point and Koh Kong resort to the provincial Koh Kong. Until 1990 the city of Koh Kong was considered as one of the least secured parts in Cambodia. The presence of the Khmer Rouge people in the lower Cardamoms created fear and threats for the local people residing in Koh Kong. Then later the surrender of all the Khmer Rouge elements, the city of Koh Kong started its development process and now it has been grown to a certain appreciable level. Lot of attractions was present in Koh Kong along with splendid beauty of nature. Later in this section you will know about the tourist spots and various other attractions in Koh Kong city.

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## Geography

The most south-western province of Cambodia, Koh Kong has a long undeveloped coastline and a mountainous, forested and largely inaccessible interior which embraces part of the Cardamom Mountains and a section of Kirirom National Park. Its tourist attractions include casinos and waterfalls, while an Export Processing Zone and new port facilities are being developed for trade.

### Climate

The country has a tropical climate - warm and humid. In the monsoon season, abundant rain allows for the cultivation of a wide variety of crops. This year-round tropical climate makes Cambodia ideal for developing tourism. Travelers need not to fear natural disasters such as erupting volcanoes or



earthquakes, and the country is not directly affected by tropical storms.

Climate: Cambodia can be visited throughout the year. However, those plans to travel extensively by road should be avoided the last two months of the rainy season when some countryside roads may be impassable. The average temperature is about 27 degrees Celsius; the minimum temperature is about 16 degrees. December and January are the coolest months, whereas the hottest is April.

General information about the provincial climate:

- Cool season: November - March (17-27c)
- Hot season: March - May (29c-38c)
- Rainy season: May - October (27-35c, with humidity up to 90%)

## Population

The current population in this province is about 207,474 people or 1.45% of the country's total population (14,363,519 person in Cambodia, 2007, provincial government data), with 107,499 male and 99,975 female. The population density is therefore 18.6 people per square kilometre.

## Economy

The economy of Koh Kong, in spite of recent progress of border development, although rapidly increasing, is low compared with most neighbouring countries. The main domestic activity on which most rural households depend is agriculture and its related sub-sectors. Manufacturing output is varied but is not very extensive and is mostly conducted on a small-scale and informal basis. The service sector is heavily concentrated in trading activities and catering-related services.



## Shopping



Most of the products are imported from Thailand, except vegetables, fruits and some local foods. There are a couple of clothing shops across the street from the eastern side of the market selling clothes from Thailand as well. Some small shops along the road on the southern side of the market stay open until 10pm.

## Koh Kong Provincial Guide



Koh Kong is a quaint border province that has long had a reputation as a "Wild West" frontier location. Situated at the southwestern tip of the country near the mouth of the Koh Bpow River, the city is only 10 kilometers from the Thai border. Koh Kong has a long coastline and a large forested interior that embraces part of the Cardamom Mountains and a section of Kirirom National Park. Its tourist attractions include a theme park, beaches, waterfalls and a rich mangrove forest.

There are many offshore islands nearby Koh Kong, the most interesting of which is Koh Kong Khroa, a practically uninhabited jungle paradise with seven magnificent white sandy beaches. This island is only about a forty five minute water taxi ride from shore.

Koh Kong has enjoyed quite a few tourism development projects that have turned the province into a great tour destination. The province is linked to Phnom Penh and Preah Sihanouk Province via Sre Ambel by National Route 4. This newly built road provides visitors yet another option to access the province by road. A drive on this road is highly recommended to those who love nature; the road winds through some of Cambodia's least developed and unspoiled regions - the Cardamom Mountains. Amidst thick forest, streams and charming waterfalls, the adventure rewards with scenic sites for stopovers and great photography.



Mangroves are spread along the coast from Kep to Koh Kong, and they cover an area of over 50,000 hectares in Koh Kong. Mangroves are specialized tropical trees that live on the edge where rainforests meet oceans. These "rainforests by the sea" are rich breeding grounds for shrimps, prawns, crabs, shellfish, snails and fishes, especially the beautiful Mud skippers that seem to enjoy the surface more than being in water. They are also nesting sites for many shore birds, lizards, sea turtles, and many other exotic animal species.



The coastal province of Koh Kong was last created in the era of Sangkum Reas Nymus by the Royal decree N° 24 SN dated January 13<sup>th</sup> 1958 by taking some parts of Kampot of province.

Dang Tung a province's village situated some 10 Km from the Cambodia-Thailand border was transformed, in that era, into the provincial capital called Krong Khemmarak Phoumin (the Royal Khmer Capital). Situated far way from the capital city and considered as thee malaria-prone area. Koh Kong, with its Krong Khemmarak Phoumin as the province capital, had, at the time of it creation, the native population of more than 20,000. Most of the migrants setting in the province at the time consisted of families of the persons who worked for the Royal Cambodia Armed Forces and the national police.

## Tourist Attractions in Koh Kong

### History related to Chi Phat Area: Folk Tales and the Origin of Place Names

By Ty Theavy, Monday 7 march 2011

(Written by Ty Theavy, edited by Nancy from New Zealand)



Once up on a time, there were 3 brothers who were Kings. They always had different interests in their lives: the oldest brother King was Sdach Sneng Krobey was interested in war and cared only about treasures and control of his Kingdom. The Middle brother was named Minn. He did not care so much about Kingly duties, but instead he liked jungle trekking and hunting. The youngest brother King was Sophat, and he was very spiritual, and liked doing good deeds and meditating. Despite their very different personalities, they loved each other and often spent time together.



One day, the three brother Kings decided that they would make an excursion into the jungles of their Kingdom by a riverboat to enjoy birds, monkeys and the other wildlife of their Kingdoms. They decided that they would make this journey all by themselves, and left behind servants and guards, preparing a boat for themselves alone.

They started on their journey the next day very early in the morning, navigating their boat along the Pi Phot stream (which we now call Steung Chi Phat) which is a large sea inlet. As the journey progressed they were very happy as they viewed the scenery, especially the new forests they were planting on the both sides of the river. They moved up the river as night fell and were surrounded by dull clouds like the fogs of December, and they began to feel quite chilled. As the new day dawned, to their amazement, they saw a scarlet ball of fire which at first they thought was the sun rising in the east, but which moved about on the river from shore to shore like a scarlet piece of the fire, and its light created a rainbow of 7 colors in the mists of the waves their boat made. Sophat, the youngest, said "Let's have breakfast, it is suitable time to have it now" and unpacked their meal, a traditional rice pack covered by the banana leaves. After a breakfast on the beautiful morning, they continued their boat journey until they reached another stream, the Steung Khse Sonthoeung Prath (which we now call Steung Prath) where they docked their boat and made a camp, then began a day of jungle trekking.

The three brother Kings had a wonderful day of trekking, watching the birds and monkeys and other animals, and in the late afternoon they returned to their camp by the side of the stream. The three brother were very tired from the trekking as they relaxed under a pavilion of palms, but they were also very excited and could not sleep, and also the sounds of the jungle – leaves whistling as they were blown by wind, and the many and varied calls and voices of the jungle creatures both near and distant – kept them awake. It was then that Sophat decided to tell a story, and asked his oldest brother: "Brother! Do you know why this inlet is called Steung Khse Sonthoeung Prath? I know the old story but was so excited this morning that I forgot to tell you about it!" The oldest brother replied. "Well, do not delay, please tell us this old story at once!"

### History of Chi Phat

**Koh Kong:** Many first-time overseas visitors to Chi Phat village eco-tourism sites have little idea of what they will actually encounter. This commune, who accommodates around 500 families, is interesting because the people have come here to live from many other regions, mainly because they were attracted by work during the time of deforestation and logging. After the creation of the Cardamoms Conservation park, logging declined and after that Chi Phat village had fewer opportunities for work.



The majority of the villagers are quite poor, and so have few other ways to earn a living unless they illegally hunt wildlife. But we were also concerned that the wildlife would be in danger of becoming extinct. This is the reason for the creation of the first CBET office established by Chi Phat Community; we believe we can improve the local livelihood, preserve and share our culture, preserve natural resources and wildlife, and encourage cross-culture exchanges through the development of Eco Tourism.

Community Based Eco-Tourism in Chat Phat is delighted to warmly welcome you in visiting our many tour programs, such as jungle trekking and camping to photograph wild pigs, monkeys, elephants and the many other species of wildlife you can see; mountain biking across jungle streams and water falls to ancient burial jar sites which still hold the mystery of who and

why they were created; tour boat trips to see a diverse number of different bird species; and refreshing swims in mountain-fed rivers which create beautiful waterfalls near the village. A very special experience is if your tour is around mid November when you can experience the color and excitement of our local Water Festival ceremony. And because we are interested in cultural exchange, you will probably be happy to share your experience by participating in English lessons during the evening classes for the poorer villager's children and CBET service member students. You can also tour our classroom and photograph our happy students and so make a special souvenir of your time here.

Chi Phat Commune is physically located southwest of Phnom Penh city, Cambodia. It is one of the Thmor Bang District's communes in Koh Kong Province with total population about 500 families. It is divided into 4 villages such as Chi Phat village, Teuk Laork village, Cham Sla village and Kom Lot village.

Most residents have always lived on their farms, and hunt wildlife for food; hunting has now been made illegal. It also has a local market area, which is dominated by Vietnamese, Chinese and other vendors which come from many different places. You can buy something from the local market with dollars or Cambodian currency. The exchange rate here is about 1\$ equal 4000 Riels. The people are friendly but they do not understand English very well, or not at all; the CBET organization's staff gaining English with the help of facilitators from the Phnom Penh office. The climate is very warm during the days and pleasantly cool at night, particularly in December and January. The village even has cell phone coverage especially for 012 and 016 (Cambodian Mobitel and Hello companies); foreign visitors also report their roaming phones from overseas have good reception. The CBET office and guest house also has wireless Internet available.

Chi Phat is named after a holy man named Sophat. It was called Sophat Village. It was changed into Chi Phat because in Cambodian Culture someone who is a sanga, (a holy man) is called Chi. This location comes from the story says: Sophat was a King. One day he was separated from his brothers by a terrible storm while trekking in the jungle near Strerng Prath Stream and then he lost his way in the jungle to reach this area.

He had decided to be a Sanga since he could not find his way home. After that the rescue team came seek for him, and reach the same place to camp living here. Long time later on, they captured him as a holy man and invited him to be a village's head from then on.

In 1979, there were only 10 families in this village. They made a living by trading fish for rice from Vietnam soldiers (at that time this village was supervised by Vietnam administration). In 1993, after the free market opened, this village started to increase its population. People came from everywhere in Cambodia because it was a good place to log. Now this village has a static population of 180 families.

### **Chi Phat in Pol Pot regime**

In Pol Pot regime Chi Phat was a base village. This meant that the village had a hospital and a factory and the villagers had enough rice. However, they were forced to live in a special site (where the local market of Chi Phat is now). The female and male were not allowed to live together (there were two pavilions; one for women and one for men). The people were patrolled by soldiers every night. They were waked by bell at 4 am in the morning to assemble before farming.

They were sent to work for 12 hours a day at the Bald Mountain farm and to another farm on the other side of the river in Toek Laork Village. There were only 800 dwellers living and working in Chi Phat during that time. Majority of them were taken at rifle point to a killing field in Toek Laork and Tmar Domrey without good reason. They were replaced by the people from other villages. The people also worked extra around their home to grow the cassavas.

The street here Chi Phat was constructed in 1976. The Khmer Rouge brought 5 tractors in order to transport the food grown in Chi Phat.

After Pol Pot collapsed, this village was under supervised by Vietnamese troops. And it was restructured into Commune with 4 villages, Chi Phat village, Cham Sla village, Kam Lort and Toek Laork village. The people started to boom up increasingly in 1993.

### **Cham Yeam Resort**



Locates at Mondul Sey Ma District, at the Cambodia-Thailand border in eight-kilometer distance from the provincial town of Koh Kong. Cham Yeam is the natural and man-made resort, which organized by Neak Ouk Nka Li Yung Phat in 1997. Nowadays, Cham Yeam has been organized as the international tourist resort, in which has five star hotel, guesthouses, casino and other entertainment. At Cham Yeam, there is a lot of coconut trees planted in chess line. Cham Yeam has beautiful scenery and can attract many tourists, especially Thai tourists.

Cham Yeam Resort is located in Mondul Seima district, about 10 kilometers northwest of Koh Kong provincial town, near the Cambodian-Thai international border. Cham Yeam is a semi-natural site developed 1997 by Neak Oknha Li Yong Phat. He names it Koh Kong International Resort. Today it attracts many tourists, especially Thais.

Cham Yeam Resort is one of the most beautiful resorts in Cambodia because it has five-star hotels, guest houses, several casinos and international zoo, Koh Kong Safari World. Cham Yeam Beach features beautiful coconut trees. The Cham Yeam border checkpoint is open from 8am until 5pm and from 10pm to 11pm to accommodate the import and export of goods.

## Kbal Chhay E91 Waterfall



Nature and Wildlife Reserve near Neang Kok Village, Bak Khlong Commune, Mondul Seima District, 24km from the Provincial Town.

## Kbal Chhay or Koh Por



Kbal Chhay waterfall is located in Mondul Seima district, about 16 kilometers north of Koh Kong provincial town. Kbal Chhay or Koh Por is a natural site along a high mountain range and forest. To reach Koh Por, visitors travel along a stream amid beautiful scenery. Kbal Chhay gets its water from the Pursat stream. The waterfall is 10 meters high and 8 meters wide during the rainy season. In dry season there is less water, so locals and tourists visit the site and relax under the big rocks that resemble a cave.

Kbal Chhay or Koh Por? Both? Apparently it is still not clear what name to give this waterfall located in Koh Kong province, Cambodia. Possibly Kbal Chhay is not used as often, now that Koh Kong is asserting itself on the tourist map. Kbal Chhay is also the name of neighboring Kampong Som province's only waterfall and as such a major tourist destination there. Operator naming this Koh Por makes sense as it distinguishes it from the other Kbal Chhay. Accommodation is to be had in Koh Kong town as well as food. Nothing exists near the falls, so bringing something with you are advisable. It's a great place to while away.

The waterfall of Kbal Chhay has many sources from the mountain rank at the seaside. The history of Kbal Chhay waterfall was found in 1960. Until 1963 Kbal Chhay arranged as the clean-water sources for providing to Sihanouk Ville, but the arrangement was failed became a hidden place for Khmer Rouge. In 1997, Kbal Chhay was changed to the developing zone. In 1998 Kbal Chhay was for bid by Kok An Company on constructing road and changing this site as tourist resort for local and international tourists. Nowadays, the Royal Government of Cambodia has changed his site as the clean-water sources for providing clean water to Sihanouk Ville.

## Kbal Chhay Prek Koh Waterfall



The Kbal Chhay Prek Koh Waterfall, Koh Kong is one of the favorite tourist attractions in Koh Kong. The travelers coming from various parts of the world like to go to visit the Kbal Chhay Prek Koh Waterfall, Koh Kong as it has some of the most spectacular scenic views of the adjoining areas.

The tourist can enjoy some time of absolute peace and tranquility as the Kbal Chhay Prek Koh Waterfall, Koh Kong is placed away from the commotion of the provincial town. Your kids are going to have a wonderful time if you take them for picnic to the Kbal Chhay Prek Koh Waterfall, Koh Kong. The cool waters of the waterfalls along with the vegetation surrounding the Kbal Chhay Prek Koh Waterfall make it a perfect picnic spot.

The travelers can hire a car and go to see the Kbal Chhay Prek Koh Waterfall, Koh Kong which must feature in the itineraries of the sightseeing attractions province of Koh Kong. It is situated in the Neng Kok Village of the Bakclong Commune in the Mondul Seima District of the province of Koh Kong. The Kbal Chhay Prek Koh Waterfall is about 22 km from the heart of he province of Koh Kong.

The Kbal Chhay Prek Koh Waterfall, Koh Kong is the nature and wildlife reserves where the travelers might get to see some of the rare species of flora and fauna. Therefore while in Koh Kong try to visit the Kbal Chhay Prek Koh Waterfall, Koh Kong! [ravel.mapsofworld.com](http://ravel.mapsofworld.com) provides information on the Kbal Chhay Prek Koh Waterfall, Koh Kong.

## Khun Chhang Khun Phen



Khun Chhang Khun Phen stupa sits on a rock in the middle of the sea tributary, about 1 kilometer from the provincial town. The stupa is 4 meters high and made of concrete. Because the site is small-only 40 square meters, including the stupa-it can accommodate only 10 to 15 visitors at a time. The stupa is about 1 kilometer from the provincial town.

Koh Kong residents worship there and often visit the site on national holidays and traditional festivals. Khun Chhang Khun Phen is related to a Khmer legend. Once upon a time, there was villager's daughter named Thim, who was loved by a man named Khun Chhang. Khun Chhang was bold-headed and not very handsome, but his family was rich. Thim, however, did not love Khun Chhang, they became engaged and Khun Chhang married her.

She later betrayed her husband to love a commander named Khun Phen. When Khun Chhang learned of his wife's affair, he complained to the King. The King decided to cut Thim's body into two parts. After Thim died, Khun Chhang buried her at the same place where she was killed. Because he wanted her to be reincarnated, Khun Chhang put up a soul flag pole on the

east bank of the stream, facing where Thim was buried. Then he built a stupa in memory of their love. Later, the west bank of the stream was named Chetdey (a stupa) village, and the east bank was named Dangtung (a flage pole) village.

### **Koh Moul Resort (Koh Kong Krau)**



Koh Moul, the biggest island in Cambodia, is 22 kilometers long and 7 kilometers wide. The island is located in Koh Kong district, about 24 kilometers south of Koh Kong provincial town. Koh Moul is 350 meters above sea level. The island has many hills and is rich in natural scenery. Koh Kong Krau has more than 10 waterfalls that range from 6 to 25 meters in height. Koh Moul features 6 beautiful beaches, known as Deum Dong Beach 1 to 6, that range from 3,000 to 5,000 meters long. All have beautiful white sand and limpid water. The water surrounding the island is full of black and white dolphins that appear along the beach from 9 to 10:30 in the morning and 5 to 7:30 in the evening.

Koh Mool Resort (Kor Kong Krau), Koh Kong is visited by thousands of travelers from all over the world as is counted among the topmost tourist attractions in Koh Kong. Situated at one of the idyllic locations of Koh Kong the Koh Mool Resort (Kor Kong Krau), Koh Kong is next to paradise. Known as the largest island in Cambodia?, Koh Mool is only a little away from the charming town of Koh Kong. Although much of Koh Kong still remains unexplored the tourism industry is flourishing and you will see some of the finest places of interest in Koh Kong. Koh Mool Resort (Kor Kong Krau) is only 24 km away from the centre of the town and you can hire a car to visit this lovely place. It is the natural splendor of Koh Mool Resort (Kor Kong Krau) in Koh Kong that attracts thousands of travelers.

Apart from the lovely retreats one can find waterfalls and you will stand mesmerized before the cascading waters of the fall from the height of 25 m. Apart from the tall waterfalls one can also see a number of small springs, and nooks in Koh Mool Resort (Kor Kong Krau), Koh Kong. Apart from the gushing springs you will see some the dolphins which will playfully come near you. As you stand on the beaches you will be simply surprised to see the black and white dolphins which are fearless of human touch. Your kids will enjoy the dolphin show that is organized at the Koh Mool Resort (Kor Kong Krau), Koh Kong for the recreation of the guests. If you are planning to stay for sometime then you can put up at any of the lovely retreats near the beach. A walk on the beach in the moonlit night is an experience you will never forget.

### **Koh Sdech**



Koh Sdech is located in Kirisakor district, about 81 kilometers south of Koh Kong provincial town. It attracts visitors from Sihanoukville and Sre Ambel district. Koh Sdech features a long beach, and the sea is filled with a variety of fish. The site is excellent for snorkeling or scuba diving, as the water is clear, and an array of coral can be seen growing at the bottom of the sea. According to legend, there once was a King who commanded an army on the island. Because there was no fresh water, the King searched everywhere to find some. At last he found a rock near the sea. Thinking the rock might contain water; the King drew his sword and split open the rock, releasing an endless flow of water that local people still use today.

### **Lam Da Beach**



One of the best places to visit is the Lam Da Beach, Koh Kong as you can spend some time amidst sea, sand and serenity. The long stretch of the golden beach shining in the warm rays of the sun makes it a favorite tourist sports for young and old alike. The global travelers can find traces of almost every natural element if they come to the province of Koh Kong.

The Lam Da Beach, Koh Kong features as an integral part in the tourist attractions in Koh Kong. All the travelers hire a car or drive down in their own if they are the residents of the adjoining areas to the Lam Da Beach in Koh Kong. If you are planning to have a wonderful time with all your near and dear ones, then visit the Lam Da Beach, Koh Kong. It would take around one hour forty-five minutes to get to the Lam Da Beach as it is ideally situated about twenty kilometers away from the provincial town.

The exact location of the Lam Da Beach is that it is placed in the Lam Da Village of the Koh Kapi Commune both of which come under the Koh Kong District. Your kids as well as all your family member whether young or old are surely going to have a great time at the Lam Da Beach in Koh Kong. The calm waters of the sea and the picturesque locales surrounding it are definitely a treat for the eyes!

### **Prek Chik O'srey Sranaosh**



The Prek Chik O'srey Sranaosh, Koh Kong is one of the tourist attractions in Koh Kong which the global travelers love to visit owing to its idyllic location. You are definitely going to have one of the most memorable moments of your life if you take some time off from your busy schedule to visit the Prek Chik O'srey Sranaosh, Koh Kong. The stunning locales which surround the Prek Chik O'srey Sranaosh in Koh Kong draw the travelers from all across the globe. Since it is placed conveniently at a distance of about six kilometers from the heart of the provincial town, therefore it acts as a perfect picnic spot for all.

You can hire a car and drive down for about ten minutes to reach the Prek Chik O'srey Sranaosh in Koh Kong. The actual location of the Prek Chik O'srey Sranaosh is in the village of Chhmarbak of the Bakclong Commune in the district of Smach Meanchey. There are many tourist attractions in this Smach Meanchey District so it has become a favorite tourist haunt. The lush green forest of the adjoining areas of the Prek Chik O'srey Sranaosh in Koh Kong acts as a natural habitat for the

extensive flora and fauna of Cambodia. The travelers can see some of the nature and wildlife reserves while visiting the Prek Chik O'srey Sranaosh in Koh Kong.

### Sner Beach



Sner Beach is a frequently visited tourist attraction in Koh Kong. Visitors from different corners of the world prefer Sner Beach as it boasts a stunning coastline.

You can either hire a car or drive down in your own to the Sner Beach which is located at a distance of about 17 kilometers from the heart of the provincial town of Koh Kong. You will come across the Sner Beach in the Dong Tung commune of the Smach Meanchey District of the province of Koh Kong. The natural beauty of the beach and its adjoining areas which lie tucked away from the hustle and bustle of the cities is going to compel the tourists to come back here time and again.

### Ta Tai Waterfall



Ta Tai waterfall is a semi-natural site located in Ta Tai village, Ta Tai commune, Smach Meanchey district, about 20 kilometers east of Koh Kong provincial town along National Road 48. There are 84 families living in this area. They earn their living by fishing and hunting.

The waterfall has two stages. The first stage is 5 to 6 meters high; the second stage is 12 to 15 meters high. Ta Tai waterfall was developed as a model site in Koh Kong to attract local and foreign tourists.

Ta Tai waterfall is also known as Ta Eisei waterfall. According to legend, a man named Ta Tai and his son went to the waterfall to fish because the waterfall was the joining point between fresh water and salt water. There was a storm and the resulting floods carried away Ta Tai's son.

Four or five days later, however, the boy was found at the same spot from where he disappeared. When Ta Tai questioned his son, the boy said: "There is someone who took me to a secret place, where he turned into a vampire and wanted to kill me. But suddenly Ta Eisei (a hermit) appeared to save me and took me back." After hearing the story, Ta Tai and his wife believed that their son was saved by Ta Eisei or Neak Sachang (another name of hermit). Ever since then, the Waterfall has been called Ta Eisei Waterfall or Ta Tai Waterfall.

### Veal Achaut Waterfall



The Veal Achaut Waterfall, Koh Kong with its stunning locales is sure to make an ideal ambience for the travelers. The tourists will have a wonderful time while enjoying the lush green landscape surrounding the Veal Achaut Waterfall in Koh Kong. Everyone wants to spend some time amidst nature as the bustling city life becomes boring after a certain point of time. The cool waters of the waterfalls and the rich flora and fauna in its adjoining areas attract the tourists from across the globe. The idyllic environment makes the Veal Achaut Waterfall in Koh Kong a perfect place for excursions.

You will come across the Veal Achaut Waterfall placed conveniently at a distance of about 45 km from the provincial town of Koh Kong. The whole journey to the Veal Achaut Waterfall, Koh Kong takes about one hour as it is situated away from the heart of the town in the Dong Tung Commune of the Smach Meanchey District. The surrounding areas of the Veal Achaut Waterfall, Koh Kong acts as nature and wildlife reserves as many animals have made it their natural habitat. While planning your trip to the province of Koh Kong make it a point to include the Veal Achaut Waterfall as it offers a rare beauty!

## *The story of Preah Kor and Preah Keo*

*A long time ago, this place at the Steung Khse Sonthoeung Prath was where Preah Kor and Preah Keo's hid from the King of Siam King after Preah Kor, the magical bull of Lovek, lost a fighting competition with Siam's bull. As you know (Sopha said) Preah Kor was the champion fighting bull of Lovek, and the Siam King was jealous of the Khmer people for having this great bull. When Preah Kor was defeated by the Siam bull, the King of Siam wanted to capture Preah Kor and take him away to further humiliate the Khmer people. It was at this place on the stream that Preah Kor tried to hide among other cattle from the King. But the King of Siam's fortune teller predicted that Preah Kor would be hiding in this place, and soldiers came to capture Preah Kor with magic ropes that Preah Kor could not fight. As a result, Preah Kor was captured by Siam at this very place on the stream Steung Khse Sonthoeung Prath.*

*The brothers were so interested in the story telling that they did not notice how the weather was suddenly turning into bad. The sky became abnormally dark, lightning flashed, and thunder sounded loudly over the jungle. The brothers became afraid and trembled, and they embraced each other for protection and comfort. A heavy rain started to fall like the downpours of the rainy season. Even though it was only late afternoon, darkness came upon the land and suddenly a terrible tempest arose which physically picked up the brothers and tossed them through the air, where they fell into unconsciousness.*

*It was early the next morning when the oldest brother King awoke, and looking around him, sobbed bitterly because such is a human's destiny! To be born as a King but still to bear such grief! Is this a punishment from something we have done?" The oldest brother King stayed in that place and wept, because he thought he would never see his brothers again.*

*But when Minn, the middle brother awoke, he found the great tempest had flown him many miles from the camp along the Steung Khse Sonthoeung Prath. Minn began to try to return to that place, but could not find the trail in the jungle. But Minn did find a place that was rich in elephants, and there was a big pond. With his morale flagging and believing he would never find his way back to his palace, Minn made his mind up to settle there and to live as a simple hunter, and to put aside his memories of his past life as a King. Today we call the pond and place where Minn settled Trapeng Taminn (Minn's pond). There is also another pond nearby, to which Minn often brought tusks to wash, and is called Trapang Tram Phluk.*

*What happened to Sophat, the youngest brother King? In the storm Sophat was swept by the floods of the wild rainstorm onto an island full of Chak trees. This island was normally flooded deeply, but like a miracle, the flood was lessened and provided Sophat with a place to stand out of the rising water, and the miracle was because of Sophat's spiritual nature and his many good deeds. Also, the island was magical and actually floated on the river! The island that Sophat's life was saved on is called Koh Trapeng Vong.*

*Sophat was on the island for a week without food. Fortunately, the island was brought to the river bank by a school of dragon fish. Sophat left the island and made his way onto the riverbank and into the jungle, but he still couldn't find the way to his palace. He missed his brothers so much, and he wandered aimlessly in the jungle because of his sadness. Eventually, he reached a hill that is near Chi Phat village, and came to a river called Chhay Chray or Chhay Chray Samathi, which had many rapids. This place was quite beautiful by the rapids. In the Sangkum Reas Niyum Regime, many Durian trees were grown here, and so some people called this place the Rapid of Durian (Chhay Thurien).*

*Sophat gave up finding the way to his palace, and he decided to stay by this river and do yoga every day to and to use his spiritual mind to try and find his brothers. He sat every day in meditation under a large shade Banyan tree by the rapid. Nearby the rapids was a high waterfall of some 6 -12 meters. Sophat would go to the waterfall and take a handful of the water flowing down. One day as he did this, he cried "If I will never see my brothers again, I wish my heart would be made content by seeing creatures of the jungle that I so love". Suddenly, a flock of deer appeared and drank water at a rapid by the waterfall. This seemed like an answer to his prayers, and so the waterfall where Sophat made his wish with a fistful of water is called Chhay Toek Viet, or Holy Water Rapid), while the rapid where the deer were drinking, is called the Chhay Konn Kdann, or the Fawn Rapid. At this rapid today you may be able to see a rock that is like the figure of a fawn.*

*But back in the Kingdoms of the three brother Kings, royal officials at the Palace had immediately become worried about the disappearance of the King brothers during their journey hiking. The Palace officials made search groups in order to find them, but after a long time they found only the oldest King, and even the older brother King had no idea where Sophat and Minn were.*

*The search for Minn and Sophat wasn't easy. Months ago the rescue teams went out; they went through out the canopy forests and savanna grass land, and searched all the streams. They came to one stream there were very large rapids where they fell and lid along so they called it The Buttock Rapid (Chhay Ors Kuot). This rapid was only 2 kilometers from Chi Phat, and many of the Chi Phat villagers came to swim and bathe or take refreshment almost every evening. But the search teams still couldn't find Sophat, nor Minn. They lost their way in the jungle; some of them were eaten by tigers, and the place where they were attacked by tigers was called The Tiger's Waiting Place (Peam Cham Tak). Another team could not find enough food as they searched, so they decided to stop and camp to hunt for food. This place by a stream was rich in catfish, which they caught and ate, and they called the stream O'bSpot.*

*After a long time, the searchers came to exactly the place where Sophat now lived and found him, but they didn't recognize Sophat. To test that Sophat was the young brother King that they searched for, they decided to stay and live in this place themselves. The searchers lived there for many years and became settled in that place, and they married with the local villagers until the place became a huge village. After many, many years they came to realize that Sophat was the lost brother King that they searched for, and Sophat was invited to be a leader of the village. The village was first called Sophat village, but then became known as Chi Phat which referred to Sophat as a holy man.*

*The oldest brother King never heard that the searchers had found his young brother because that team stayed in the place called Chi Phat, and for many years he worried about his lost brothers. He decided to search for his brothers on his own, but he went out disguised as a simple peasant farmer as he stayed in a village he came to on his search. During his stay he sought refuge with an aged couple, and he stayed there for many months. The oldest brother King was very interested in the house of the aged couple because it had very smooth clean floors made from betel nut tree; the oldest brother King named this village Cham Sla Village. This Cham Sla village was originally located in Areng zone, Thmor Donpov commune, Thmor Bang district, Koh Kong province. But in the Pol Pot regime the villagers were taken by the Khmer Rouge to new location, which is near Chi Phat now.*

*The oldest brother King decided to leave Cham Sla to continue his search for his brothers, and he journeyed to another village. The villagers in this new place craft a living as farmers and vendors. Among the vendors were a majority of females*

who sold Loert sweets, and the oldest brother King became very fond of this delicious sweet. For that reason the village became known as Phuum Loert (Loert sweet village); and after that it became Komloert village.

After many months of searching on his own, the oldest brother King still couldn't find his brothers, so he went back to his palace very sad and despondant.

As time went on, the whole country became involved in war when Siam invaded the oldest brother King's country. The oldest brother King and his army could not win against the Siam, and the Siamese army eventually took over the oldest brother King's palace. The oldest brother King ordered that all the royal property was taken away to hide in different places. Some treasures were carried on boats, and some was buried in the pond near his palace. The pond where he buried his treasures is called a Treasure Pond (Tra Pang Kom Nop), and the stream where his boats carried away is called a Boat Stream (Tra pang Touk). The oldest brother King himself fled to a separate and secret hideout.

The Siamese armies overcame the population and gathered the Kingdom's people together. They made them slaves and forced them to speak Thai; if didn't do so they were assassinated. The place where this happened to the Khmer villagers was at a plateau village called Siem Krom, but long after the Siamese left this village's name was changed because the people hated this background, and the village name was changed to Teuk Laork village. The name refers to heavy rainfall which made the water in the ponds of this village murky.

Not all the villagers were captured by the Siamese; a number went hiding in the jungle near a stream and made a living on hunting wildlife and weaving the silk cloths and Kramas. When the war with the Siamese finished they returned back to their home town, but then the village was populated by new dwellers, who had named Loom Village (Phuum O'key) because it had many weavers.

The oldest brother King was not very lucky in hiding from the Siamese. The brother King was very scared as the Siamese came closer to his hiding place in a large buffalo's horn, and he was found and killed by the Siam.

What happened to the treasures of the oldest King that he had taken with him to the hideout? After he was killed by the Siam, the oldest brother King's soul went back to the aged couple that he had lived within Cham Sla Village. The oldest brother King's spirit appeared to the aged couple in their dreams and it said "Do you recognize me? I am the one who used to stay at your house. I think you both are good people, you are very poor, but what good people you are, as you are both so honest. Let me tell you where to dig and find my treasures". The aged husband of the couple woke trembling. "What is the matter?" his wife asked. "I have had a dream that the oldest brother King Sdach Sneng Krobey let us to dig his treasures" the husband whispered into his wife's ear. "I also had this dream!" his wife replied. At the dawn the next day the couple went away from their cottage, and spotted the track of the trail as was in their dream. They came to the place they were shown in the dream, and they dug quietly. Immediately they saw a big basket within full of valuable silver and jewelry. They rushed to dig at another field following their dream, and found a big jar full of gold.

But suddenly as the aged couple dug the treasures, the ground beneath them began to shake in a large earthquake, and the treasures were consumed by the trembling earth. The aged couple became afraid and ran away. The villagers saw this and asked the old couple what had happened, and they told the villagers the story of the dreams and finding the treasure. So from then on, the fields were called Silver Field (Veal Brak) and Gold Field (Veal Meas). Other people also call these fields Veal Ta Meas and Veal Ta Brak. These fields are about 13 kilometers from Chi Phat.