

# 100 Pillar Wat and Koh Phdau Trail



## The Trail

Wat Sor Sor Mouy Roy or 100 Pillar Pagoda was rebuilt in 1997 after being destroyed by the Pol Pot Regime in the 1970s. It now has 116 pillars. Three wooden pillars are all that remains of the original wooden Wat that was built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. They are displayed at the rear of the temple.

**Distance:** 35km one way to Sambour  
: Additional 15km around Koh Phdau

**Transport Options:**



Local bike Motorbike Car Boat/Ferry

### Tour Brief:

Hire a car, tuk tuk or motorbike in Kratie and head north past the Kampi dolphin pool.

Visit 100 Pillar Wat (*Wat Sor Sor Mouy Roy*) for a day trip to learn about this famous temple in Cambodia. Alternatively, overnight on Koh Phdau in the village at a local homestay family facility. Arrange your homestay in advance through the CRDT organisation.

## Highlights

### 100 Pillar Wat

- Tours by local guide
- Traditional music performance
- Locally made handicrafts

### Koh Phdau

- Village homestay
- Dolphin viewing
- Adventure riding on Koh Rouniv



## Itinerary

An early morning start is essential. Head north from Kratie via Kampi. After the first 9km you will pass Thma Kreae village - particularly famous for its sticky rice in bamboo or *Krolan*. Near this village on the right is Phnom Sambok. Continuing 5.5km further north from here you will arrive at the Kampi Dolphin Pool, and another 8km you will reach a small round-a-bout at Sandan. You will have to take a left turn and travel along the riverside for another 15km to Sambour town. Once in Sambour town, turn left at the T junction and follow the road north for just less than 1km to the 100 Pillar Pagoda, which you will see immediately on your right-hand side.

**Option 1 – Wat Sor Sor Mouy Roy or 100 Pillar Pagoda:** At this Wat you will be surrounded by historical artifacts in a beautiful, tranquil setting, with buildings and rituals that make up an authentic Buddhist experience. There is a locally produced booklet available that explains the paintings and their stories of the pagoda. A full exploration of the site will take over an hour. Next you can walk or ride to another old pagoda about 200m behind 100 Pillar Pagoda. Bring a local guide with you who can tell you about its historical link with the 100 Pillar Pagoda. There is also another small temple called *Vihea Liev* located about 400m south of 100 Pillar Pagoda along the Mekong River. This temple also has a historical link to the 100 Pillar Pagoda. Spend your time to study about the old temple's history to give you more understanding about Khmer culture. Don't forget to give a donation to the pagoda before you leave. The monks won't ask for money, but it is a polite gesture. The Khmer people believe that it is also good karma!

There are small eateries just outside the gates of the pagoda on the riverfront where you can relax on the wooden platform and enjoy a local cane sugar drink while watching the tranquil flow of the Mekong River.

**Option 2 – Koh Phdau:** Take a local boat in front of Wat Sor Sor Mouy Roy towards Koh Phdau, another beautiful island in the middle of the river. The boat trip takes about 30 minutes. It is best to book one day in advance through the CRDT organisation for homestay and food services (contact information on this sheet). From your homestay, you can enjoy magnificent views of the wide open Mekong to the south of the island. There are possibilities to see the Irrawaddy dolphins from the river bank near Koh Phdau village. You can get involved in the daily activities of the local people (farming, planting, fishing, house constructing, animal feeding) which can bring you a more closer and unique understanding of their lives. There are also a variety of activities to keep you busy such as ox cart tours around the village, boat trips around the island, relaxing on the island's sandy beach (February – May only), watching a local dance performance or trying your hand at Khmer cooking lessons (Contact CRDT to arrange).



## Contacts

### Transportation from Kratie to Sambo *Car or minibus*

Ask your hotel or guesthouse to arrange for you.

### Homestay and tours at Koh Phdau *CRDT (NGO)*

Tel: 023 357 230 / 012 635 865 / 099 834 353  
(English speaking)

### *Koh Phdau Community Based Tourism* Tel: 011 709 329 (Khmer speaking)

### Tours and bicycle rent *Xplore-Asia*

Tel: 023 218 810 (Phnom Phen)  
074 973 991 (Stung Treng)  
017 982 644 (Kratie)  
(English speaking)