

Srae Krasang and Distant Dolphins



The Trail

At Damrei Phong, there are deep pools in the river used as retreats by the Irrawaddy dolphin and other large wildlife, especially in the dry season.

Distance: Choice of 40kms or 61kms return

Transport Options:



Local bike Motorbike Boat tour Kayaking

Tour Brief:

A full day trip with a number of options. Arrange to hire a boat or bicycle the night before, to take you to Koh Preah early morning to view the active dolphins. From Koh Preah, the boat driver can take you to Srae Krasang where you can cycle 20km north back to Stung Treng.

Options: Link to a kayaking trip from Koh Preah to Koh Khnhear. Or cycle all the way making a loop via National Road 7 and Ou Pong Moan.

Highlights

- Dolphin viewing from land or a boat
- Test your skills on a kayak



Itinerary

Option 1 – Boat & Bike: Ask your hotel or guesthouse to book you a boat from Stung Treng town to Koh Preah and onwards to Srea Krasang. As you depart Stung Treng and head down the Mekong River, you will notice the river becoming narrower and small rapids will appear. It is here where you will pass the first dolphin pool called Koh Santuk. Ask your boat driver to slow down and help you spot the dolphins. Usually the dolphins are active and come to the surface at this time of the day, however their numbers are much less than in other pools on the river. Ask your boat driver to drop you at Koh Preah and wait for you.

Koh Preah is a small island where you can explore the local surrounds by foot or just hang out on the white sandy beaches for a while. You may also have a second chance of spotting the dolphins. Your boat driver will probably indicate he's hungry around noon time, so head across the river towards Srea Krasang. At this village, you will find a small local food stall, so order yourself some Khmer noodles or fried rice (*Mee Chaa* or *By Chaa*). This is the place where your cycling begins. It's nearly 20km from here back to Stung Treng along the river, and you have the whole afternoon to return via this Trail.

Near Damrei Phong you will find a small stream where a small dam has been constructed. Further along at Koh Sampeay there is a small pagoda with a nice view over the rapids. Just 7km north, you will get to a small wooden bridge where the road bends to the right. Here is where you should stop to catch the sunset. If you are a bit early for sunset, you may want to rest at the pagoda in front of the sunset point. The wooden structure is interesting and the monks will be curious about what you have been up to the whole day. They may be able to tell you the story about the previous temple that fell into the water a long time ago. From here it is a 3km ride back into town.

Option 2 - Bicycle: Hire a bicycle and start early in the morning when its coolest. Ride west from Stung Treng along the waterfront, then turn south and head towards Koh Sampeay, Damrei Phong then Srae Krasang. Here you can stop for lunch at a local food stall. After lunch, return via the same route back to Stung Treng in time for sunset.

Alternatively, if you have hired a motorbike, take the dirt road east via Toul Dey Krohom to Highway 7, then a little bit south to Ou Ruessei Kandal rapids before returning to Stung Treng via Ou Pong Moan.

Option 3 - Kayak: Kayak from Koh Preah and right at the start you should have a chance to see the dolphins. Then continue through the wetlands and enjoy a barbecue lunch on a sandy riverbank. You can finish your trip at Koh Khnear. (For more information about this kayaking trip, please contact Xplore-Asia, listed on this sheet).

Contacts

Local bike and motorbike hire

Riverside Guesthouse
Tel: 012 490 333 / 012 447 775 (*Khmer speaking*)

Kayaking and bicycling tours and mountain bike rental

Xplore-Asia
Tel: 023 218 810 (Phnom Penh)
074 973 991 (Stung Treng)
017 982 644 (Kratie)
(*English speaking*)

