

# Ruins and Rubble Trail



## The Trail

Stung Treng's history is influenced by its position on the river. There are local concentrations of old temples dated to the Chenla period that flourished briefly between the 6th and 9th Centuries. Although there is little tangible evidence of the temples, their humble piles of rubble still attract offerings, prayers and ceremonies.

**Distance:** 2-3 km return

**Transport Options:**



Trekking



Local bike



Boat/Ferry

**Tour Brief:**

The tour takes around 3 hours in total. Start in the morning or mid-afternoon by taking one of the many ferries that leave from Stung Treng Port.

Stung Treng is well known for its warriors. In the middle of the dry season each year, the villagers of Thala Barivat hold a three-day ceremony to protect them from disaster, droughts and disease.

The ceremony is held in early April each year. They make respectful offerings to the spirits of the Khmer heroes who died in battle. To honor their heroes, local people participate in a locally distinctive game called *Tray*, in which men re-enact fighting scenes with long bamboo whips. They protect themselves with large shields woven from river plants and hardened with black rubber.

## Highlights

- Ancient pre-Angkorian temple and temple mounds
- Warrior ceremony with re-enacted fighting scenes.





Prasat Preah Srey is sometimes called Prasat Preah Ko because of the Ox statue in front of it. The temple was built in the early 7th century when the area between Kratie and southern Laos was ruled by the Khmer King Jayavarman I. He is renowned for re-building the warring states of Chenla, which ultimately disintegrated after his death. The ox in front of the Prasat is called Non Tin which was his favorite form of transportation. You will find the smiling ox near the temple facing east towards the gods.

## Contacts

### Local bike and motorbike hire

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

### Mountain bike rental

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

## Itinerary

Hire a bicycle from a hotel or guesthouse and take a short ride to the Stung Treng Port. From here, you and your bike can take one of the many local boats to the other side of the Mekong River to Thala Barivat. It's a short 10 minute boat ride across the confluence of two majestic rivers.

Up on arrival at the Thala Barivat ferry landing, follow the main street west to Prasat Preah Srey. This temple is a short 100m ride from the food and drink stalls at the ferry landing. Prasat Preah Srey is sometimes called Prasat Preah Ko because of the Ox statue in front of it. The temple was built in the early 7th century when the area between Kratie and southern Laos was ruled by the Khmer King Jayavarman I. He is renowned for re-building the warring states of Chenla, which ultimately disintegrated after his death. The ox in front of the Prasat is called Non Tin, which was the king's favorite form of transportation. You will find the smiling ox near the temple facing east towards the gods.

Next, explore the river road to the southwest to Pram Bei Lueng Temple. On the way see how many temple remnants you can identify – they will be the small, neatly piled stones or rubble.

Return back to the ferry landing at Thala Barivat. Enjoy a cold drink at the food and drink stall at the ferry landing, while waiting for your boat to collect you and return you and your bike back to Stung Treng.

