



# Welcome to Chiro Village

## Organization for Basic Training



# Homestay & Bungalow



The OBT homestays & bungalows were designed as a means of creating a more regular income for the school. 100% of the money from your stay goes as a donation to the OBT projects, which could help to pay for students' education, uniforms and "scholarships", school supplies, teachers' wages, building/repairing projects and much more. The guests who come to stay in Chiro village provide a great source of income for our school so **we are incredibly grateful for everyone who stays with us.**

**What we offer:** Cambodia as a country has a fascinating and incredibly rich culture and you will see that reflected here in Chiro village. At OBT we are passionate about sharing this culture and are dedicated to providing our guests with an authentic experience that gives a true insight into the rural Khmer way of life.



**Family homestay** 1 to 2 pers  
Amenities: Room in a local family home, double mattress, mosquito net, fan and shared bathroom.

**Bamboo bungalow** 1 to 2 pers - 20 m<sup>2</sup>  
Private bungalow in front of the school, double mattress, mosquito net, fan and private western bathroom with guest amenities. Deck with hammock. WiFi connection.



**Mango bungalow** 2 rooms up to 4 pers - 30m<sup>2</sup>  
Private bungalow with two rooms; double mattress, mosquito net and fan per room and shared eastern bathroom with guest amenities. Deck with hammock. WiFi connection.



**Banana & Papaya bungalows** 1 to 2 pers - 20 m<sup>2</sup>  
Private bungalows surrounded by banana and papaya trees. Double mattress, mosquito net, fan and private western bathroom with guest amenities.

**Palm tree & Coco bungalows** 1 to 2 pers - 20 m<sup>2</sup>  
Private bungalows surrounded by fields. Double mattress, mosquito net, fan and private western bathroom with guest amenities.

Ready  
in April



Perfect spot to watch the sunset over the Mekong !

**Riverside house** up to 8 pers - 50m<sup>2</sup>  
Private house, double mattress (house can fit four mattresses), mosquito net, fan and private western bathroom with guest amenities. Deck with hammock. WiFi connection.

# The NGO & its projects



OBT is a Cambodian-run non-governmental organization (NGO) that is **dedicated to the education and empowerment of the children** living in Chiro Village. The organization was established in 2007 by Sophal Pot, OBT's director, and has been registered as a local NGO by the Cambodian Ministry of Interior since 2009.



## What for ?

The aim of OBT is to contribute to the country's development at a community level, to reduce the poverty in Cambodia, and to assist in building the nation's skills base. Our goal is to broaden the horizons of the children living in Chiro through providing a high quality of education that will enable them to break out of the cycle of poverty which they have been born into.

## What we do

**We give:** Free-of-charge English, Khmer, Computer Science and traditional Khmer Music and Dance lessons based on a daily program, in addition to the State school. New Pre-hospitality training course for our underprivileged students (17 to 25 years old). By attending OBT the children will greatly improve their employment prospects and chances of going on to higher education.

**We teach:** 380 students between 5 and 16 years old and 15 students between 17 to 25 years old.

**We hire:** Employment of full-time and part-time local teachers. An important aspect of OBT is involving people from the community. Part of this involves employing dedicated and motivated locals who want to share their knowledge with the students. The best students then have the chance to work for OBT as a paid teachers.

## Our ethos



The happiness and wellbeing of the OBT students is at the centre of everything we do. The organization has been built around

the idea of providing a safe environment where children are free to play and grow, whatever circumstances they are coming from. Most of the children who attend OBT come from farmer families with an income of 300 dollars a year - less than a dollar a day for the whole family - so providing the children with a secure and educational centre is vital. We believe that **education is our most powerful tool**, for without it, instigating any kind of change is impossible.

# The NGO & its projects



## Our staff

OBT is a local NGO run by the local community members. We hire local teachers and construction workers.

OBT also receives volunteers from all over the world who assist in the running and development of the project. Volunteers help with a great range of work, such as Computer teaching, English teaching, teaching our own teachers, building works, gardening, online promotion, fundraising, income and expense works and much more. But these volunteers only implement our job, since with our staff we are able to operate all year round.

## Funding

We are often found in unstable financial circumstances as we run on donations.

One of our main sources of income is from boat cruise ships that visit Kampong Cham during the tourist season. Here, the children perform traditional music and dance for the passengers who afterwards are invited to donate some money to the project.

The Homestay experience is another regular source of income for the school. By providing visitors with a customised stay where they can understand and enjoy the village environment, visitors can see how the OBT and education of the children help to build better prospects for the children and the community as a whole.

# Food in Chiro



## With a family



As part of your experience of rural Cambodia home, you can taste handmade traditional meals in a family's home.

Lunch / Dinner : 2 different local dishes served with rice, water and fresh fruits. **\$4**

Khmer breakfast porridge (boiled rice), fried rice or noodles served with fried fish/pork/beef. **\$2**

Western breakfast : baguette, butter, jam and fried eggs. **\$3**

*Please let us know beforehand so the family can know in advance how much food to prepare.*

**All of the money for your meals goes directly to the family.**

## The Bamboo Café - Bar & restaurant

Thanks to numerous donations and the hard work of local employees, volunteers and students, OBT finished building its bamboo restaurant in December 2016. Built as part of the pre-hospitality program, the restaurant provides the trainees with access to a hands-on training in kitchen management, cooking and service. The restaurant is almost entirely managed by the them.

The guests from the OBT homestays and bungalows can enjoy a meal or buy some of the displayed handicrafts (lamps, jewelry and anything our team members imagine really) at the restaurant.

It is situated right next to our organic farm which uses its organic waste for compost. Moreover, the restaurant was entirely furnished by handcrafted bamboo furniture and lamps.



During the rainy season the restaurant gives directly on the Mekong and during the dry season it borders the little path that goes across the fields and to the wide sandy Mekong beach.

If you drop in sometime between the two seasons you can get the best of both!



# Local activities



As part of your stay we offer a range of local activities that you can be involved in. These activities have been selected as they offer an insight into the everyday lives of the villagers. You can also bring your own ideas and share your skills with our kids (Reading story books, doing some art classes, playing English games with them...), news activities are welcome.



## Cycling half day tour

#1 : old French Lighthouse & longest bamboo bridge in the world. (7 km one way)

#2 : local industries : bamboo workshop & wine local shop (4km one way)

\$5 (1 person) + \$2 for every additional person. Bicycle included



## Fishing trip on a boat

You will be fishing with a net on the Mekong river alongside a fisherman from the local Muslim village. Visit of his fishing farm in the floating village. Anytime for an 1h30 trip.

\$7 (1 person) + \$3 for every additional person. \$6 goes to the local fisherman.



## Oxcart ride

A local villager will take you on a tour around the village and fields in a cart pulled by two cows.

\$6 (1 to 2 pers). \$5 goes to the driver. Duration : 1h30



## Cooking class

At the Bamboo Café alongside a local cook to learn how to cook a Khmer dish, that you will taste afterwards. Anytime. \$10 per person.

## Farming

You will go to the field alongside the local farmers to harvest either corn or cucumber/tomato, depending on the season. Anytime.

\$3 (1 pers) + \$1 for every additional person. \$2 goes to the farmer.



# Tuk-tuk tours



The tuk-tuk is the traditional transportation for local people and travelers in Cambodia. We made a selection of the most interesting places around Chiro Village. Choosing one of these tours you are not only collaborating with our projects, you are also creating employment for local people.

## One day tour

1 You will visit Wat Nokor, Phnom Proh and Phnom Srey temples, Amica NGO and the Local market in Kampong Cham. We will have lunch in Kampong Cham (not included) and after lunch we will visit Han Chei Mountain (Kouk Preah Theat, Andaung Breng and Kok Lvea temples).

*\$23 (1 to 2 pax) / \$25 (3 to 4 pax). \$20 / 22 goes to the driver.*

2 You will visit the fishing village Mort Khmuong, the Chup Rubber plantation and the rubber factory (factory fees are not included 1\$/pers). We will stop in the small village Tbong Khmum to have lunch (not included). Then we will visit the Wat Maha leap pagoda (wooden old pagoda) and bring you to Chung Kran weaving village known for their handmade Sarom and kroma (traditional Khmer clothes) *\$23 (1 to 2 pers) / \$25 (3 to 4 pers). \$20 / 22 goes to the driver*

## Half day tour

You will visit Ko Paen bamboo bridge (\$2.5 + \$1/pers dollar to cross the bridge is included), and Ko Paen island, where you will visit a Cham village and a Khmer village. There you can see how the villagers weaving traditional weeding clothes.

*\$21 (1 to 2 pers) / \$23 (3 to 4 pers). \$18/ 20 goes to the driver.*

You will visit Han Chei Mountain (Kouk Preah Theat, Andaung Breng and Kok Lvea temples)

*\$17 (1 to 2 pers) / \$19 (3 to 4 pers). \$14/ 16 goes to the driver.*

You will visit Wat Maha leap pagoda (wooden old pagoda) and we will bring you to Chung Kran weaving village where you will see how villagers do Sarom and kroma. (traditional Khmer clothes).

*\$17 (1 to 2 pers) / \$19 (3 to 4 pers). \$14/ 16 goes to the driver.*

You will visit Amica NGO and the Boeng Thum fishing lake.

*\$15 (1 to 2 pers) / \$16 (3 to 4 pers). \$12/ 13 goes to the driver.*

You will visit Wat Nokor, Phnom Proh and Phnom Srey temples, Amica NGO and the Local market in Kampong Cham. If we are in the dry season we will bring you to see the bamboo bridge.

*\$15 (1 to 2 pers) / \$16 (3 to 4 pers). \$12/ 13 goes to the driver.*

You will visit a fishing village called Mort Khmuong and Chup Rubber Plantation and the rubber factory (factory fees are not included 1\$/pax).

*\$15 (1 to 2 pers) / \$16 (3 to 4 pers). \$12/ 13 goes to the driver.*

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# Places to visit around Chiرو



## Han Chei Mountain

Han Chey Mountain is located 27 km North of OBT. The mountain can be climbed up by 295 beautiful stair steps and has a beautiful scenery. In addition to the views there are also some ancient temples around that you can visit.

## Wat Nokor

Wat Nokor is an 11th century Khmer sanctuary located to the Northwest of Kompong Cham around 9 km away from Chiرو Village. At the rear is a white cement statue of a woman who survived the Khmer Rouge period, escaped Cambodia and funded the construction of the temple in thanks for her good fortune. The original killing field in this area was between Phnom Proh and Phnom Sray, but after the end of the Khmer Rouge period monks collected the bones and interred them here.

## Chup Rubber Plantation and Rubber Factory

At Chup Rubber Plantation, about 21 kilometres southeast of Chiرو Village, you can observe harvesting in action and wander at will around the factory where workers process the rubber. Around one dollar per person is charged to enter in the factory.

## Bamboo bridge & Ko Paen island

The bamboo bridge is built every dry season to connect the west bank of the Mekong to Ko Paen, a medium-sized island just to the south of Kampong Cham. In the wet season the bridge disappears under the water and the island is only reachable by boat. The island has sandy beaches, lots of fishermen and some tobacco plantations and it makes for a beautiful half-day wandering or cycling around. Some fees are charged to cross the bridge.

## Wat Maha leap pagoda & Chung Kran weaving village

30 km southwest to Chiرو Village, Wat Maha Leap is the last working wooden pagoda of its kind. Inside, the cool tiles are spattered with bat guano, indicating that the pagoda is not regularly used but the beautifully painted pillars are glorious. Prey Chung Kran village is known for has the best kramas and saroms.

## Amica

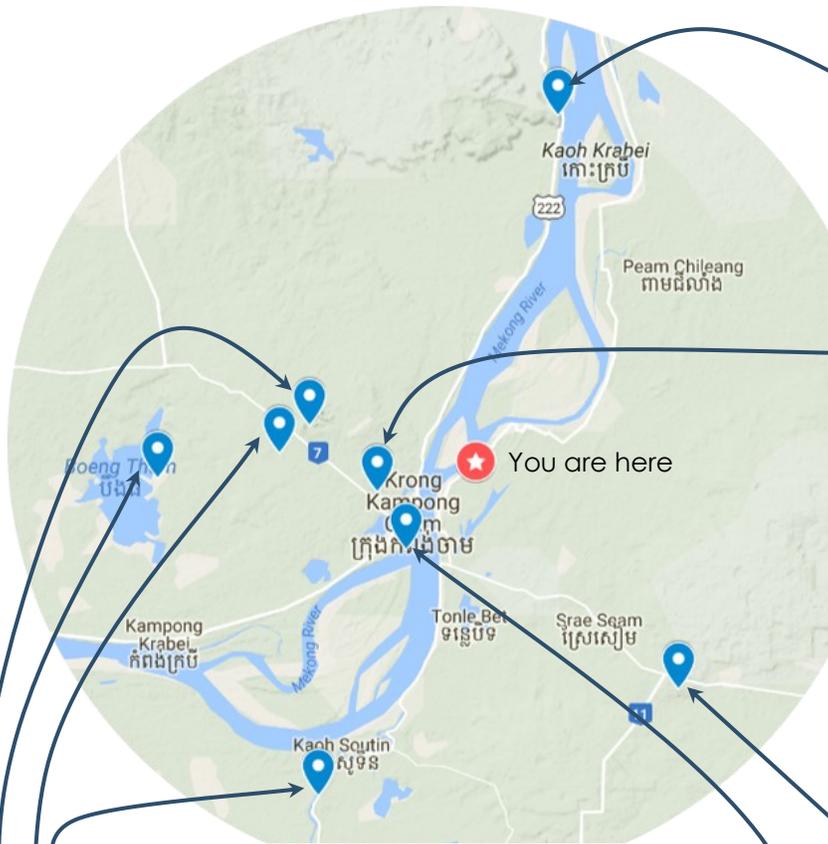
NGO situated in the rural village of Cheungkok where you can see how villagers make silk saron and kroma. You can also buy handmade local products.

## Boeng thum lake

This lake became famous for has one of the best fishing or outdoors adventure locations in the regions.

## Phnom Proh and Phnom Srey temples

Phnom Proh (Man Hill) and Phnom Srey (Woman Hill) are two hilltop temples. Phnom Srey offers splendid views over the countryside and the Mekong. Unlike Phnom Sray, Phnom Proh is overrun with fat monkeys.



# How to support us



If you feel that OBT worth your trust and you want to help and support the projects, you can donate through our website **www.obtchiro.com**. You can also donate in person during your check-out.



There is another free and easy way to help OBT : **sharing your experience and letting us a review** on TripAdvisor.com or Booking.com

Indeed, as OBT is trying to support by itself the projects, the more travelers some visit our homestay, bungalow and restaurant, the more incomes they will provide to help the children of Chiro.

## Want to keep in touch with OBT?



Like our Facebook page **Organization for Basic Training (@obtchiro)**



Follow our Instagram account **@obt4cambodia**  
Post on the hashtag **#obtcambodia**

### Organization for Basic Training

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