



Team Information and Policy

Water of Life:

Cambodia is a unique place with many ministry opportunities. At Water of Life we strive to represent Christ in everything we do in respect to Cambodian law, culture, and customs. Volunteers are asked to be sensitive to these settings, and live a lifestyle that is appropriate, particularly when in the company of Cambodian people. Volunteers are asked to conduct themselves in a way that will not raise questions regarding their Christian testimonies.

Water of Life reserves the right to send any team members home due to unforeseeable events and/or failing to comply with Water of Life's policies at the full expense of the team.

Laws – Cambodia presently enjoys freedom of religion; however, it is against the law to speak negatively about the government or the religion of Buddhism. We do ask that you would adhere to the laws of the land while staying with us.

Dress Code – Cambodia is a traditionally modest culture and we ask all visitors to respectfully prepare to dress modestly. Women have to be the most mindful while preparing clothes to wear as men's clothing is not an issue. The general Cambodian rule is women's clothing should not reveal their shoulders, cleavage, midriff or thighs. If women choose to wear leggings their tops need to be an appropriate length. As a guide, we ask that you do not wear shoestring vests/tank tops, spaghetti string tops, halter neck tops, transparent clothes, miniskirts, low slung trousers and shorts two inches above the knee. For tops or dresses, bra straps and midriffs should not be visible. If women choose to wear leggings their tops need to be an appropriate length. If a volunteer is planning on swimming we ask you to bring one piece suits with board shorts or a tankini with board shorts. We do ask that you would keep in mind all of the above as this is to adhere to Cambodian culture. If you are unclear about an

item of clothing, or what constitutes an acceptable appearance, please feel free to ask via e-mail or when you arrive. We are excited that you are coming.

Relationship Information – We believe that biblical marriage is limited to a covenant relationship between a man and a woman. Relationships can present different issues in a different culture. In this culture husbands and wives don't show affection in public, generally they don't hold hands and defiantly don't kiss. Please keep in mind that Cambodian culture is changing with the western and European influence. Also, while in the city you will see a lot of tourists that don't follow any of these guidelines. However, we do not want to offend, as we are here to minister and help, like Paul said

“...I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.”

We do ask that **if you are dating or married** to be sensitive to the Cambodian customs. We also ask that if dating, refrain from public shows of affection. In addition, **beginning or pursuing romantic relationships/dating with any of Khmer at WOL is strictly prohibited.**

Room sharing by different genders is limited only to married couples.

Alcohol – Water of Life works with many children that have come from the street, a life of alcoholism, gambling, and lives of abuse from alcoholic relatives. That being said we do ask that while staying with us or while going on ministry outreaches with us that you would refrain from drinking even casually. (Col. 1:21-22) We do ask that you would be aware of this and sensitive to those around you.

Recreational Drugs – Drug use is prohibited. WOL has a no tolerance policy.

Money – The exchange rate in Cambodia is \$1 to 4,000 Riel. Cambodia uses both US and Cambodian currency (Riel) so you can bring however much cash as you want. Although most shops will not accept ripped or crumpled dollars, even a small rip so make sure you to ask your bank for new dollar bills. If you have a visa bank card you can go to any ATM with the visa sign and get money out. (Make sure you tell your bank that you're coming over here

because if not they might think that someone has stolen your card and freeze it). Having cash on-hand is a wise decision but be wise with the amount in case of theft.

Rooms – We do ask for 15\$ a night per room while staying with us, as the cost of electricity is one of our biggest expenses. The rooms do have air conditioners and water heaters. (Note: if you have food in your room and it is left out or open you will get ants. Zip lock bags work great to keep them out).

Food – Volunteers are welcome to eat with WOL for lunch and dinner the cost is \$3 a day per person. Some foreigners have difficulty eating Cambodian meals but don't worry there are plenty of Western restaurants and stores you can shop at but be mindful that the prices for Western food is much more expensive than Cambodian food, typically \$5-10 a meal. At WOL rice is served with every meal along with traditional homemade Khmer food. The tap water is not safe to drink so be prepared to buy the easily accessible water bottles.

Giving – We are blessed and thankful for all gifts that the Lord has pressed upon your heart. All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. It is our policy to meet the needs God lays before us, so that Christ is lifted up and the Gospel advanced. We ask that you refrain from directly giving to any of our students and or staff but instead direct all giving to our office.

Ministry Outreaches – Appropriate dress is required unless otherwise informed by Water of Life staff that you are going on the outreaches with. Since there is such a variety of opportunities and different people groups if you have any questions please ask. Also, it should be noted that such things as gas for the trip, overnight expenses, food and other such things will have to be provided by you unless otherwise informed by Water of Life staff. In addition, if you have things you would like to do or teach the kids please note that we are non-profit and our funds are limited so we do ask that you would set aside money for the supplies you will need. If you require a translator for an outreach we have many young people who would love to assist. There is a charge for the services and the time of our young people. Please **do not give money directly to the kids**, please ask the Water of life staff concerning payment for translators and other outreach expenses. WOL is training the

youth so please keep that in mind.

Language – All the kids at WOL study English five days a week and love to practice. You will see that love doesn't need words. And that any time spent with the Khmer will be time well spent (especially just reading the bible together).

Church – We do have church on Sundays here at our church Calvary Chapel Phnom Penh in English at 9am, so feel free to join us we would love to have you. A Christian lifestyle should reflect the Biblical perspective of integrity and appropriate personal and family relationships, business conduct and moral behavior. We are praying that we all would demonstrate a teachable spirit, an ability to share love for others, a willingness to live together under the bond of Christ. We truly are a family here.

Tourism/Recreation - We are not a tourist company. We are a nonprofit organization who works with children and youth, to train teach and bring up in the ways of the Lord. We get our money from donations and the kindness of others. Sometimes funds and our time are very tight. So, if you have touring or sites that you would like to see here in Cambodia please set aside time and make these plans on your own. We do have vehicles and such here but they are for ministry purposes. If you have any questions we will try to answer the best we can.

Medical Insurance - We insist on you securing this type of coverage which is available through our blanket coverage. You can go onto www.missionaryinsurance.org and then fill the names in on “Group Logon” or “Existing/Contracted Groups”. The cost is \$1.44 per day and this is part of your cost...just like rent or airfare. It only covers you while here in Cambodia for the number of days specified. You can do it yourself or ask the WOL director to help you, Ruby Phillips at wateroflifeus@gmail.com. You can use a credit card to pay. The team leader should be responsible for this.

Visas/Passports - When coming into the country you will need to purchase your tourist visa (\$30). If you are planning on staying longer than a month it's a good idea to get the business visa (E visa) for a cost of \$35. Also, you will have to renew your visa before a month is over from your arrival date, this is

your responsibility to remember. If you forget you will be charged by the Cambodian government five dollars for every day your visa has expired. After a month, you can renew your visa for 3 months, six months, or even a year. Also, you will need one to two visa sized pictures, it's a good idea to have extras.

Release and Wavier— Water of life and/or any staff persons therein, are not responsible for any and all damages incurred by team members during preparation, duration, or post duration of said team members' trip including but not limited to: material, financial, personal, physical, mental, emotional, or liability. Team members are fully responsible for any and all damages incurred by team members during preparation, duration, or post duration of said team members' trip including but not limited to: material, financial, personal, physical, mental, emotional, or liability.

May God bless you, lead you, and guide you

Sincerely,

Water of Life

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