

COMMUTER

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THE CHARM OF CAMBODIA

Life as We Remember It: Exploring the Culture of Cambodia as a Tourist

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
BRENDA AUTRY

I don't know if it is the way the strangler fig trees and creeping lichens seem to devour the massive stone walls of Ta Prohm. The mystical pink blush in the carvings of Banteay Srei. Or the humbling feeling of standing in the shadow cast for centuries by the towering spires of Angkor Wat that makes me want to return more.

But whether it's something I remember, or something I know I've yet to discover, few places in the world have left me longing to return as much as Angkor Wat.

Hidden in the jungles of Cambodia for centuries before being rediscovered, Angkor Wat was built in the early 12th century as a Hindu temple dedicated to Vishnu, but was soon converted to a Buddhist temple. It served as the capital for the ancient Khmer people until the 15th century, and today is the largest religious monument on Earth, receiving millions of visitors every year.

Angkor Archeological Park, often mistakenly called the Angkor Wat Temples (Angkor Wat, translated "Temple City," is just one temple within the park), covers 154 square miles just outside the bustling city of Siem Reap. It includes the main temple, Angkor Wat, which covers a massive 400-acre area,

Offerings such as cleaned water and flowers can be found at this Buddha Shrine.



and approximately 1,000 other temples and edifices scattered throughout the complex.

Visitors to Angkor can choose between a one-, three- or seven-day pass. But even if you spent every hour of the seven days exploring, you'd never see half of what Angkor has to offer.

To get around the complex visitors can choose from renting a bike and peddling themselves, hiring a tuk tuk driver to cruise around in an open air cabin, or hiring a driver in an air-conditioned car with its year-round average temperature of 90 degrees and humidity levels of around 80% – making midday feel akin to standing fully clothed in a steam bath.

The heat doesn't deter visitors though. Fueled by the hydrating liquid of freshly macheted coconuts and sipping on iced Cambodian coffees served in plastic baggies. Their shoulders and knees covered – per the temple rules – in brightly colored surrongs and billowy backpacker pants they recently procured from the vendors outside the gates. Thousands of visitors converge upon the temples every day.

The crowds at Angkor Wat arrive early. At five each morning visitors amass in front of lotus lake to watch the sun rise behind the temple's picturesque silhouette.

Angkor Wat is drenched with history and symbolism. To help peel back the layers and discover it's hidden stories, I chose to take a guided tour before exploring on my own – a wise investment in retrospect. The carvings along the outside walls of the temple depict scenes from the Hindu epics Ramayana, the Mahabharata and Suryavarman II. That the giant statues of Buddha and Vishnu are dressed in robes to honor them and preserve their modesty. And that the temple is still an active religious site.

Colorful shrines filled with offerings of food, flowers and money lay at the feet of the idols. Next to them, urns filled with ashes hold sticks of



Banteay Srei is located in Angkor Wat, which is the biggest religious monument in the world.

burning incense. Twirling tendrils of smoke pirouette off the embers and fill the air with their sweet fragrance.

Monks with shaved heads and orange robes mingle into the crowds. Those who live at Angkor move stoically through its spaces. Some stop to light incense and pray, others sit along the edges of the courtyard offering to perform blessings for a small donation – an incredible experience if you're so inclined.

Many of the monks walking through the temple's courtyards and corridors are on pilgrimage to this holy site. These monks can be easily identified by the looks of awe on their faces and the selfie sticks they thrust into the air while taking group photos with their iPhones.

If your idea of temple exploration does not include crowds – fear not! There are plenty less-crowded temples to explore.

The most famous of the other main temples is Ta Prohm – often called the Tomb Raider temple for it's feature in the film. It is one of the most beautiful



Arabella Autry practices "som pas," a traditional greeting to show respect.

temples in the entire complex. The green hued stone walls are in a slow battle against nature, which is swallowing the temple one stone at a time.

With smaller crowds it is easier to explore the intricacies of the temple. Walking over the piles of stone and through the passages covered in carvings while the sound of birds serenade you and the rest of the world falls away, it is hard not to feel the spiritual essence and imagine the stories hidden beneath the rubble.

For more visit [Brenda's Blog](#)

INSIDE THIS EDITION

GRAPHICS: [FREEPIK.COM](#)



OUT AND ABOUT
SEE PAGE 2



A MEMORY FROM NYC
SEE PAGE 3

CAMERA CHECKOUT
SEE PAGE 4



THE LINN-BENTON
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COMMUTER

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OUT AND ABOUT

The Outside World Still Exists and Is Still Present Though This Series of Photos



PHOTO: NICOLE NAONE

Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden remains open during the pandemic, allowing me to remember Hawai'i's beauty and forget about the unpleasant happenings around the world.



PHOTO: NICOLE NAONE

A native flower to Hawai'i, the 'ohi'a lehua blossoms bloom in front of the Ko'olau mountains.

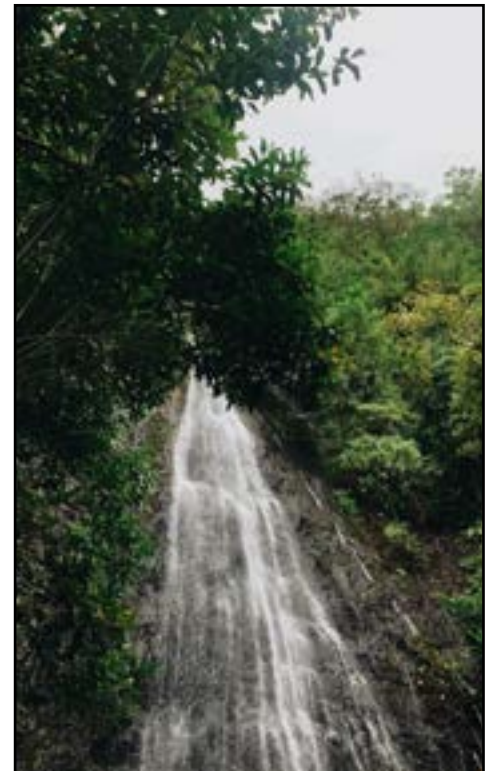


PHOTO: NICOLE NAONE

A normal hike remains open as well and is a good way to take a step into the valley and a step away from the things going on in society.



PHOTO: JAKE YODER

Oliver (left) and Miles (right) Yoder walk on the many paths that cover Talking Waters. May 17th, 2020.

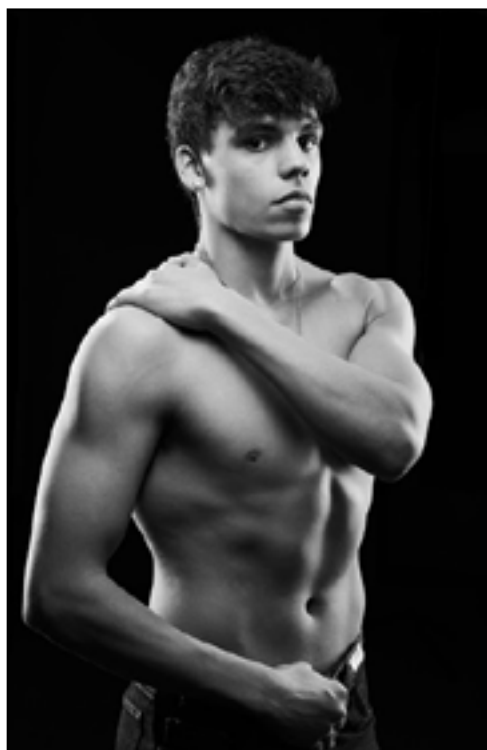


PHOTO: JAKOB JONES

Monroe Adair is a 19 year old from Albany, Oregon. This photo shoot was particularly important to him because this was right when he was getting ready to start his body building hobby and possibly career. Bodybuilding is special to him because his mother participated in professional bodybuilding when she was younger, so it's a family honor and tradition.



PHOTO: JAKOB JONES

Nature still progresses though time feels frozen. Taken during this month of May, rainy weather followed by sun gives way to plant growth and flowers.

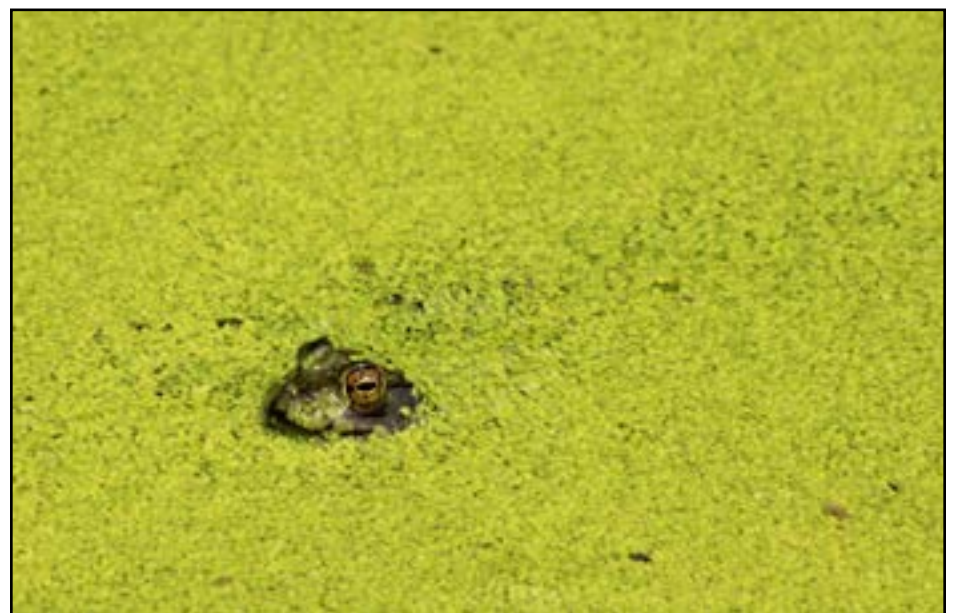


PHOTO: JAKE YODER

A frog gazes out of the water in Talking Waters. May 17th, 2020.

A MEMORY FROM NEW YORK CITY

New York City Shifts Energy During Quarantine, But Preserves Its Rich Culture

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
ERIKA DONNER

Times Square would be humming with activity as New York City warms up leading into summer. No matter the season, this city is always alive.

We'd be standing in line outside of the boxy red TKTS Ticket Booth on the corner of 47th Street and Broadway, making a last-minute decision on which performance we'd see later this evening. Finalizing our purchase, we'd shoulder our way through the crowd to head down the stairs leading to the subway.

One day we will show you the enormity and complexity of this place, this vast network of human connectedness existing between strangers. At over eight million people, New York City is the most densely populated metropolitan area in the United States. Now though, it is quiet. Shuttered. The coronavirus has ravaged this city.

I recall our excitement as we unpacked and settled into our corner hotel room on the 45th floor. Pressing my nose to the glass of the window, I heard car horns honking as I spied tiny human forms walking below.

Exhausted but fueled by adrenaline, we'd taken the red-eye flight from Portland then we freshened up and joined the bustle of Times Square. Our plans were to see, do and explore as much as we could on the island of Manhattan, ending most nights with a show.

"The Phantom of the Opera" was our first taste of the theater scene. Known as "the longest-running show on Broadway," we were dazzled even before the curtain lifted. The golden interior of the theater with lampshade lighting, the long layers of draperies dressing the doorways, and the cushiony, velvety



Our view from the Marriott Marquis Hotel. August 2016.



Lower Manhattan as seen from the Top of the Rock, Rockefeller Center. August 2016

seats all made a perfect setting for this famous Gothic fantasy.

Afterwards, exhilarated and hungry, we laughed as we walked across the street to John's Pizzeria, ordering a thin crust margherita pizza with rounds of fresh mozzarella and tons of basil. The server asked where we were from, giving us suggestions "from a local."

Regardless of socioeconomic status, gender, or age, simple humanity was never more apparent than when riding the subway, our preferred form of transportation.

Sharing seats and overhead handles with strangers in one of the most ethnically diverse cities in the world opened an unexpected partnership toward a common destination-oriented goal. Accepting of friendly smiles as well as overt, indifferent glances from downturned eyes, one did not have to speak the same language to understand.

However, for the first time in 115 years, the subway now shuts down each night to allow a deep, thorough cleaning of each car before the system restarts the next day.

Comparing the flavor of Mo's Famous Clam Chowder to spoonfuls of Manhattan clam chowder at the Grand Central Oyster Bar and Restaurant will be on our list. We will no doubt be planning another trip – a holiday one – after exploring the history within and around Rockefeller Center, where the annual Christmas tree is lit in front of the ice skating rink during the winter months.

Right now, though, it's empty. But someday again the plaza will be full of kids chasing the pigeons that hunger for a piece of their Nathan's Famous hot dog, dripping with mustard and relish.

The Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and Ground Zero are featured destinations where the stories of the



Sell-out crowd at Yankee Stadium against the Tampa Bay Rays. August 2016.

past are achingly heavy, softened by unhindered courage of mankind. The site of the Twin Towers, now marked by the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, is austere, full of heartbreaking remembrance and yet the human spirit shines on. We will touch the walls of the fountain, engraved with the names of those who died. Honoring their memory together.

Making time for a morning run around beautiful Central Park, a welcome oasis in a sea of concrete, will be a given. We will have to go early before the heat and humidity make it impossible.

Perhaps another game at Yankee Stadium, where your brother and sister watched Alex Rodriguez play his final game; a defining moment in sports history. Stadiums will fill, with rookies vying for their own glory and fame.

Adding in the mile-long walk over the Brooklyn Bridge to grab lunch at Grimaldi's, we will catch views of the city skyline while watching the activity of the harbor and the East River and take note of the graffitied quotes scribbled on the metal railing of the bridge.

One of our favorites: "I can be changed by what happens to me, but I refuse to be reduced by it– Maya

Angelou

Our week will fly with an energy I love and yet wish would slow. This is NYC.

The vibe. The people. The history. I don't know when we will reschedule our travels. Life doesn't always follow the story we wish to write. However, we will aspire to go again.

To share an adventure with three generations – Grandma, your aunt, myself, you and your cousin – to experience this vibrant city, full of a certain richness of life unlike what you'd find elsewhere.

"We will be changed by this oppressive, silent enemy that does not discriminate, but let's remain resilient, refusing "to be reduced," as Maya Angelou once said.

Known as the "Gateway to America," weary travelers felt hope when glimpsing the bright, welcoming torch of the Statue of Liberty in the New York Harbor. I dream of showing this NYC to my girls.

For more photos visit [Erika's Blog](#)



LBCC Students Can Still Borrow Cameras From the School Free of Cost



STORY BY
DAVIS IHDE
@_DAVISI

Has quarantine gotten you into a repetitive routine that seems to loop over and over again every day? If your answer is yes, you are certainly not alone.

School and work are becoming trivial tasks, and your favorite, show or video game has lost its pizzazz. Things may seem bleak, but now is actually a better time than ever to pick up a new hobby!

One hobby that has been a go-to for LBCC students and many others as well has been photography. It is easy to get into due to the relatively low amount of expertise required to create enticing

photos. Another reason why anyone can get into photography is the truly endless possibilities. You can shoot anything you want; from cats to landscapes to black-and-white closeups of food.

Now, there is one problem that can keep a lot of people from entering the world of photography; and that is not having a camera. Smartphone cameras have greatly increased in quality in recent years, but you just can't get the same quality and variety of shots that you can with a real DSLR camera.

Luckily, LBCC is here to solve that problem. You can currently rent a camera from LBCC for the remainder of the term. However, you should act fast if you want to get one, because there are only about 15 left and you have to return



PHOTOS: PEXELS.COM

them before the final day of spring term; otherwise, a hold may be placed on your account until it is returned.

Fortunately, LBCC has been shipping the cameras out to students in only a few days with no shipping costs, and they send the return label along with the camera for easy turn-in. To check out a camera and start snapping today, all you need to do is fill out this form: [Click here](#)

All of the students that need to use them for a class have already received them, so don't be concerned if you aren't in one of the classes listed on the form.

Now that you know the opportunities that await in photography, go out there and shoot!

You may not be able to go everywhere that you normally would be able to, but there are still a million possibilities for great looking photos if you have the creative eye, as well as the patience and motivation. Not every shot is going to be a masterpiece, but eventually you could find one.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Jackfruit
 - 5 Ten (pref.)
 - 8 Dayak people
 - 12 Original sinner
 - 13 Devon river
 - 14 Wings
 - 15 Air
 - 17 Byron poem
 - 18 Compass direction
 - 19 Chin. duck eggs
 - 21 Wool cluster
 - 22 Loose woman
 - 23 Fermented honey drink
 - 25 Chateaubriand heroine
 - 28 Golf club
 - 31 Polish rum cake
 - 32 Women's Army Corps (abbr.)
 - 33 Munich's river
 - 34 Annona
 - 36 Pers. carpet
 - 37 Close
 - 38 Guest house
 - 39 Trend

- 41 Former Turk. president
 - 43 Pother
 - 46 Amalekite king
 - 48 Riot
 - 50 Wool (Lat.)
 - 51 Exploit
 - 52 Acudad
 - 53 High (pref.)
 - 54 Three (pref.)
 - 55 Concur
- DOWN**
- 1 Green
 - 2 Arabian Sea gulf
 - 3 Window lead
 - 4 Soul or spirit (Fr.)
 - 5 Cotton fabric
 - 6 Exodus (abbr.)
 - 7 Of pottery
 - 8 Adjective-forming (suf.)
 - 9 Flatter
 - 10 Rhine tributary

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

RHO	ABBA	RAGA
EAR	KOLN	ODOR
ABA	CROSS	BEAM
DUNE	STUKA	
GAB	ALGER	
SLUROVER	ORCA	
LAT	NUCHA	ACC
ANAT	GUERNSEY	
BENSH	CNS	
EMAIL	ESSE	
KEATS	SPOEM	TAN
ERIS	EDDA	EGO
GYRE	ROAD	MOW

- 11 Wagon tongue
- 16 Samoan port
- 20 Beak
- 22 Sound loudly
- 24 Foreign in origin
- 25 Absolute (abbr.)
- 26 Truth: Chin.
- 27 Substantial
- 28 Siesta
- 29 Canadian (abbr.)
- 30 Crab-eating macaque
- 32 Effete (2 words)
- 35 Monkey
- 36 Neglect
- 38 Bury
- 39 FDR's dog
- 40 Bedouin headband cord
- 42 River into the Humber
- 43 Air (pref.)
- 44 Smear on
- 45 Migratory worker
- 47 Lively (Fr.)
- 49 King in India

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18			19				20		21	
			22			23	24			
25	26	27			28				29	30
31				32			33			
34			35				36			
		37				38				
39	40			41		42		43	44	45
46		47		48			49			
50				51			52			
53				54			55			

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so each row, column, and 3x3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit.

	9		1		5	2		
2		7						
8	3		9	2	4			
				5		2		
	7		2	3	6	8		
	1		8					
		4	5		1	3	9	
						5		8
5	2			7			4	

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Bring It Back with This Retro '80s Atari Game Review

REVIEW BY
JOSHUA BLOEDEL

In this review, I'm gonna be reviewing three Atari games: "Pitfall!," "Pac-Man," and "E.T. the Extra Terrestrial."

Note: I am reviewing the original versions of these games.

You may not experience the same problems I have. "Pitfall!" is a 2D platformer by Activision released on April 20, 1982. You play as Harry, a treasure hunter who is supposed to gather all 32 treasures in the jungle in 20 minutes. You will have to jump over logs, pits, and other obstacles, while gaining the skill to jump on crocodiles in order to go across each level.

Since this game has only one character with one goal, I give the story a C+. The gameplay can be entertaining, but you have to be precise with your jumping and timing especially with the crocodiles. I give the gameplay a B-.

There is almost no music in the entire game. The only time there is music is when you are swinging on a rope which does make it more rewarding. I give the soundtrack a C+. "Pitfall!" is a lacking game overall.

The only thing the game has going for it is its gameplay. I give the game a 5.5/10.

In Pac-Man, you play as, well, Pac-Man. Your main goal is to collect all of the wafers before the ghosts catch you. This is basically the same as the original arcade game but with a different map. I like that they added their own twist each level. My



"Pitfall!"



"E.T. the Extra Terrestrial."

problems with the game are that the hitboxes for the wafers and ghosts can be quite unsettling.

Pac-Man may not eat the wafer despite it being in reach, while you are in danger of getting caught by a ghost though they may not be close enough to do so. Not to mention, the ghosts flicker for some as a glitch.

Since there is just a single character who has one goal, this game gets a C+ in that category.

The gameplay is significantly amusing, but its glitches may make the player frustrated. I give this game a B- in the gameplay as well.

There is almost no music in the game. The only time there is, is when you begin the game which is a terrible version of the intro to "Pac-Man." If that was even an attempted replica of that song, I give the soundtrack a C-.

This is not as good as "Pitfall!" but it can be fun. I give the game a 4.8/10.

Now we come to the Video game crash of 1983 with the release of "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial." After paying Universal Pictures for the rights to E.T. for about \$20-25 million, (or \$53-66 million if you count inflation) one man, Howard Scott Warshaw, was tasked to make a game for the movie in only five weeks in time for Christmas.

In December 1982, the game was released and was received poorly. In September 1983, a collection of Atari games, including E.T., was buried in a New Mexico landfill site.

In the game, you play as E.T. who is supposed to gather three cell phone pieces so that he can phone home. He must do it before he runs



"Pac-Man."

out of energy, however.

His task won't be easy. He has to deal with the scientist and FBI agent who will kidnap you or steal your piece. When you are wandering around the map, images will appear on the screen which will let you do stuff like: calling Elliot, going to the next area in a certain direction, find out where the next piece is, phone home, and finally the land area.

The pieces are stored in these holes called "wells." You can find them either by showing the location when the "?" symbol appears or by just accidentally finding it. The symbol will not always show you the location, and sometimes the item may not even be in that area despite that symbol being located there, and potentially can throw the player off.

You can also gather candy that you can give to Elliot. If you have nine candies, Elliot will chase away the scientist and FBI agent and find a cell phone piece for you. You may use the candy to restore energy

if you are in the "eat candy zone." I was unaware of this until I read the manual for the game. It comes to show how vague the gameplay is until you actually read it.

The story at least has a character who works towards a goal, but the game is incredibly vague on it, so the story gets a C.

The gameplay is confusing, glitchy and a pain. The game will make you fall to the pit or well even if a player hardly touches it. The game also will occasionally bring you back down that same well when you just get out of it. I give the gameplay a D.

There is almost nothing for the soundtrack except for the intro which is a decent replication of E.T.'s theme song. The soundtrack gets a C+.

This game deserves all the hate it gets. It is glitchy, confusing and frustrating. I give the game a 4/10.

