Once the guest villa of King Norodom Sihanouk, Amansara is now a 24-suite retreat situated just 10 minutes from the entrance to Angkor. Imbued with the inviting ambience of a gracious home, the resort is set around an elegant swimming pool in a private garden compound on the outskirts of the bustling town of Siem Reap.

Each Amansara suite is provided with its own custom-fitted remork and driver for expeditions into the world-renowned Angkor Archaeological Park (cover).
The Dining Room opens onto a shaded terrace where one can enjoy al fresco dining. On either side, stone-columned corridors lead to the suites.
The circular Dining Room with its soaring seven-metre ceiling offers breakfast, lunch and dinner. The house menu features Khmer and international cuisine, and changes daily to include fresh, seasonal produce.

The Dining Room also provides a walk-in wine cellar and cheese room, and an informal sitting area where guests can help themselves to home-baked cakes and enjoy drinks from the house bar.
Hidden from view behind a six-metre-high wall, the 25-metre lap pool (left) provides guests an additional swimming facility. The main swimming pool (inside front cover) lies adjacent to the Dining Room.

The Library (above) provides an extensive collection of books on Cambodia and Indochina, as well as Internet service, magazines and daily newspapers. It is also the venue for informal lectures when Amansara hosts scholars and other experts on Khmer culture.

The Gallery and Boutique (below) offers a selection of Khmer jewellery, hand-woven silks and local art and photography.
The Roof Garden (left), with cushioned seating and low tables, provides a peaceful spot for early evening drinks or dinner from October through to the end of April. It also serves as a venue for cultural performances. Amansara welcomes local dancers and musicians to entertain guests and introduce them to Cambodia’s rich artistic heritage.
Saffron-robed monks are a common sight around Siem Reap and the temples, and Amansara embraces the serenity of Buddhism within its grounds. The property’s shrine (above) is cared for daily by staff, and Buddhist blessings are conducted in the gardens or the library on special occasions such as birthdays.

The tying of a red string around one’s wrist is a physical reminder of a Buddhist blessing. In Buddhism, the colour red represents courage, bravery and protection from harm.
Amansara offers 24 suites including 12 Pool Suites. These measure 80 square metres and feature a six-by-five-metre pool in a private courtyard. Offering consummate privacy, the courtyards make a serene setting for private dining.
All suites are finished in earthy shades with cool grey terrazzo, dark timber and ivory walls. Suites offer a combined sleeping and living area in an open plan setting. The king-size bed, writing desk and sofa are on an elevated platform.
The bathroom features a large soaking tub and twin vanities. Courtyards without a pool vary in size and contain small water gardens. Pool courtyards are identical in size.
Amansara’s Spa is accessed via a pathway alongside a reflection pool. The reception area is flanked by a lounge and a courtyard garden which is home to an ancient Rain Tree.
Four treatment rooms, each with a private relaxation area, steam bath and shower, overlook a 45-metre reflection pool. The extensive spa menu utilises Aman’s unique chemical-free range of Aman Spa products. Private yoga sessions can be arranged within Amanusa’s grounds or outdoors amongst the temples.
Amansara’s Khmer Village House is situated within the Angkor Archaeological Park, overlooking the 10th-century reservoir of Srah Srang. Guests can enjoy private picnics, cooking classes and romantic dinners at the house, with live music and a personal chef.
Angkor, as seen through the eyes of Amansara, provides guests with the unique opportunity to learn and understand the history and value of Khmer civilization.

Angkor Wat (right) is the largest and most spectacular of the Angkorian monuments, built in the early 12th century. It has become a symbol of Cambodia and an immense source of national pride. The impressive bas-reliefs on the lower levels should not be missed.
Angkor Wat is not the only attraction in the archaeological park. Bayon is renowned for its 200-plus carved stone faces within the ancient walls of Angkor Thom, while Ta Prohm is held fast in the embrace of huge strangler fig trees.

Rural life around the ruins continues as it has done for centuries, whether in the rice paddies or the floating villages of the Tonlé Sap. This vast body of water can be explored on Amansara’s lake boat (bottom right).