

CURRENCY

MONEY

- ✚ The official currency is the Cambodian Riel.
- ✚ Many businesses, especially hotels, airlines, restaurants, souvenirs shops, set their prices in USD and all the expenses can be paid in USD even the minor ones. At the moment the exchange rate is **US\$ 1 = 4000 Riel**.
- ✚ But in remote areas of the north and northeast, locals only deal in riel or small Dollar denominations.
- ✚ The only other currency that can be useful is Thai Baht, mainly in the west of the country. Prices in towns such as Krong Koh Kong, Poipet and Sisophon are often quoted in baht, and even in Battambang it is as common as the Dollar.
- ✚ There are no banks at any land border crossings into Cambodia, meaning credit cards and travellers cheques are effectively useless on arrival. In the interests of making life as simple as possible, organise a supply of US Dollars before arriving in Cambodia.
- ✚ The most-used paper bills of the Cambodian Riel in different denominations, are as shown below



100 Riel



500 Riel



1,000 Riel



2,000 Riel



5,000 Riel



10,000 Riel



20,000 Riel



50,000 Riel

METHOD OF PAYMENT

+ Cash

Direct payment of cash is **most popular** in Cambodia. They mainly use US Dollar and Riel. US dollar is indeed the common currency in Cambodia. Pay for something cheap in US Dollars and the change comes in Riel.

+ Credit cards

- Credit cards are accepted in larger stores and in cities. Top-end hotels, airline offices and upmarket boutiques and restaurants generally accept most major credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, JCB, sometimes American Express), but they usually pass the charges straight on to the customers, meaning an extra 3% on the bill.
- Cash advances on credit cards are available in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Sihanoukville, Kampot, Battambang and Kompong Cham. Canadia Bank and Union Commercial Bank offer free cash advances, but most other banks advertise a minimum charge of US\$5.
- Several travel agents and hotels in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap arrange cash advances for about 5% commission, this can be particularly useful if you get caught short at the weekend.

+ Traveller's cheques

Traveller's cheques are not widely accepted outside hotels and banks.

+ ATMs

ATMs can be found in most major cities including Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Sihanoukville, Kampot, Battambang and Kompong Cham. There are also ATMs at the Cham Yeam and Poipet borders if arriving from Thailand. ANZ Royal Bank has the most extensive network, including ATMs at petrol stations and popular hotels, restaurants and shops, closely followed by Canadia Bank. Aceda Bank has the widest network of branches in the country, including all provincial capitals, and many have ATMs.