

Angkor Thom

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Angkor Thom Latest News

Archaeologists recently uncovered significant remains of a 12th-century hydraulic system and architectural features within the ancient royal palace complex of Angkor Thom.

About Angkor Thom

- Angkor Thom, located in present-day **Cambodia**, was the **last and longest-lasting capital of the ancient Khmer Empire**.
- Angkor Thom translates into English as the “**Great City**”.
- The complex is located in the **north of Angkor Wat**, between West Baray and East Baray.

Angkor Thom History

- It was **established after Jayavarman VII reclaimed the Khmer capital from the Cham invaders in 1181**.

- Unlike earlier Hindu temples, Angkor Thom was designed as a **Buddhist city**, reflecting the **king's devotion to Mahayana Buddhism**.
- However, it also incorporated **elements of Hinduism and ancestral worship**, showcasing the empire's religious syncretism.
- Angkor Thom **witnessed the reign of the greatest Angkor king until 1219** and **remained the capital** of the Khmer Empire throughout its decline, which probably led to the **complete abandonment in the 16th century**.

Angkor Thom Features

- It covers an area of 9 km, within which are located **several monuments** from earlier eras as well as those established by Jayavarman and his successors.
- It is a **square-shaped city** with walls approximately 8 metres high and about 3 kilometres long on each side.
- A **moat surrounds the outside** of the city.
- **Bayon Temple:** At its centre stands the famous Bayon, renowned for its numerous **giant stone faces**.
- **Other Important Structures:**
 - **Terrace of the Elephants**
 - Terrace of the Leper King
 - **Baphuon**
 - **Phimeanakas**
- Angkor Thom is **part of the Angkor Archaeological Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site** inscribed in 1992.

Source: **HD**

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/angkor-thom/>

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