

Service-Learning Trip Proposal - 2026

Prepared by Ripple Effect Rides for Merici College

Client: Veronica Harrold, Merici College

Issue Date: 15th June 2025

Event Start: July 2026

Event End: July 2026

Tour Duration: 14 days / 13 nights

Group Size: 6-20 pax



We are excited to present this proposal for a collaborative Service-Learning Tour in Cambodia, specially designed for Merici College. This unique program seamlessly blends the educational focus of Merici College with the enriching experiences provided by Ripple Effect Rides and the impactful work of REACH Siem Reap. Through our combined efforts, we are confident that we can craft an impactful journey that will profoundly benefit both your students and the Cambodian community.

Here's what sets us apart:

- **Deep Local Connections:** Our commitment to responsible tourism means we collaborate directly with Cambodian partners. This ensures that your students' journey directly supports the local economy and empowers marginalised individuals within the tourism sector.
- **Robust Social Impact Partnerships:** Ripple Effect Rides proudly collaborates with a network of eight well-established and reputable NGOs in Siem Reap, including REACH Siem Reap. This extensive network enables us to offer a diverse array of service-learning opportunities, catering to a wide range of interests and passions.
- **Authentic Cultural Immersion:** Beyond volunteering, your students will engage in carefully selected social impact activities designed to foster a deeper connection with Cambodia's rich culture and historical legacy.

This carefully crafted itinerary will ensure your time in Siem Reap is both impactful and rewarding, leaving you with lasting memories and the satisfaction of making a positive difference.

Please note:

While this proposal provides a framework, we encourage customisation to perfectly suit your group's specific interests and preferences. We'll work closely with you to tailor the itinerary to create the most meaningful social impact experience possible.



Background of the Company

Ripple Effect Rides is a sustainable tourism company founded in 2023 in Siem Reap, Cambodia, driven by a commitment to positive social and economic impact. We leverage tourism for good, connecting travelers with ethical causes and local communities. We believe every decision creates a lasting ripple effect. Our mission is to create unforgettable travel experiences that prioritize local community needs while offering Australian youth invaluable experiences in socially responsible tourism and ethical volunteering.

Our Values:

- People
- Community
- Impact
- Sustainability
- Responsibility

Our Story:

We're proud to be co-owned by Marco Terranova and Emily Williamson. Emily's journey to Cambodia began in 2013 when she first volunteered, deeply affected by the widespread poverty she witnessed. This experience became the catalyst for her lifelong commitment to sustainable development, culminating in her founding REACH Siem Reap in 2019 to provide holistic support and break cycles of poverty. Marco's connection started with an initial link, but the genuine warmth of the Cambodian people quickly resonated with him after a decade in high-end hospitality in London. Meeting Emily and joining REACH solidified his feeling of belonging, allowing him to merge his passion for creating memorable experiences with a desire to make a tangible difference. Together, their shared commitment to the country and its communities led to the creation of Ripple Effect Rides, merging their love for cycling and adventure with their dedication to local NGOs.

Our Unique Approach:

We stand apart from conventional tour operators by placing people and community at the heart of everything we do. We ensure fair wages, strictly adhere to local labor laws, and empower our team through scholarship opportunities. Our thoughtfully curated tours are designed to maximize positive impact across every stakeholder, from our valued tuk-tuk drivers to the non-profit organizations we collaborate with. Through partnerships with entities like REACH Siem Reap, we ensure our tours directly contribute to meaningful social change. Emily's extensive understanding of NGO needs and challenges enables us to forge truly impactful collaborations that leave a lasting difference.

Our Dedicated Team:

Our operational strength comes from our deep roots in Cambodia, with over a decade of combined experience living and working within the local community. As an internationally owned business, we are profoundly committed to fostering local opportunities, which is why our entire team in Siem Reap is comprised of dedicated Cambodian residents. Our tours are expertly led by passionate, English-speaking guides who offer not only extensive knowledge of Cambodian culture, history, and current social issues but also a genuine connection to the region. By intentionally supporting ethical local businesses, partner NGOs, and employing local staff, we directly contribute to the sustainable economic growth of the area.

Having first-hand experience in operating NGOs, we are acutely aware of the complexities and potential pitfalls of poorly planned volunteer initiatives. This informs our unwavering commitment to ensuring all our service-learning programs are ethically sound, truly impactful, and sustainable for the communities they are designed to serve.

Throughout your journey, you will be accompanied by our highly experienced tour leaders, each possessing over a decade of industry expertise. They provide meticulous and dedicated support at every turn. The size of our supporting team will be tailored to your group, ensuring optimal assistance:

- 1 x Tour leader
- 1 x Community Guide from 10 pax

Child Protection & Safeguarding:

We are deeply committed to child protection and safeguarding. We have implemented robust policies and procedures to ensure the safety and well-being of children. Our team members, including drivers, undergo regular refresher training in child protection to maintain the highest standards. Additionally, all employees possess a Commune Clearance/Local Character Reference, equivalent to an Australian Working with Children Check. We strictly adhere to all policies set out by our partner NGOs, prioritizing child safety as our utmost concern. As part of the tour, it will be a requirement that all Merici College participants are vetted by REACH Siem Reap and provide all necessary documentation to participate in volunteering activities.

Safety & Security:

Your safety and well-being are our top priority. We have implemented comprehensive safety measures to ensure a secure and enjoyable experience. Our experienced tour guide will be with you 24/7, providing support and guidance. We have established robust emergency procedures, and our team is trained in first aid. Our drivers undergo rigorous screening and alcohol testing to ensure safe transportation.

We have also arranged for additional security personnel at the hotel to monitor the group's safety, especially during nighttime. We adhere to strict child protection policies and procedures, ensuring the well-being of all participants. We will provide clear communication channels with parents/guardians and have detailed emergency evacuation plans in place. To ensure a culturally sensitive and respectful experience, our team will provide guidelines on local customs and traditions. We will also accommodate any specific needs, such as dietary restrictions or medical requirements. With our commitment to safety and well-being, you can embark on your adventure with peace of mind.

Testimonials:

Greg Youngberry

Local Guide · 422 reviews · 252 photos



★★★★★ 2 months ago

What a fantastic team we would have had nowhere near the impact we had without ripple effects rides. They put together a great social impact tour where we were able to help many young students in their education through teacher in a box thank you



Maurice Moynihan

9 reviews · 3 photos



★★★★★ 9 months ago

This was my first time in Cambodia and doing any sort of organised bike ride. Marco and his team have set the bar very high. Every little detail seems to have been thought of.

We were checked in to the hotels by the time we arrived each evening with our bags waiting in the rooms. It's a small thing, but huge after a long day cycling in the sun.

The bikes were all new with suspension that could be turned off and on depending on the terrain. They were washed and cleaned every night and looked brand new again each morning.

All the water stops and lunch breaks were always at the agreed distances along the route. This was very reassuring on the hot days - we always knew how much further we had to go. Some days we had delicious picnics in pagodas, other days we would sit in a restaurant. The variety and quality of food was excellent. I miss the the fresh fruit at each of our water stops.

Marco has a well organised and truly happy team. The atmosphere they all created made this a really special trip. Big thanks to Cheng, Syranni and Veng for looking after us all so well. And a huge thanks to Gaa who led the ride and showed us his beautiful country. I'll miss his smile and infectious laughter.

Tour Overview

Location:

This tour is designed to immerse students primarily in Siem Reap province, offering a wealth of incredible service-learning opportunities and engaging activities over 14 days and 13 nights. As specifically requested by Merici College, the itinerary will also include a dedicated two-day, one-night experience in Battambang, providing a unique opportunity to explore another significant region of Cambodia.

Our suggested itinerary below outlines this comprehensive adventure. Should Merici College have any further preferences for additional locations or specific activities within this framework, we are fully flexible and can tailor the tour plan to perfectly suit your needs and interests.

Date range:

We're pleased to suggest the following date ranges for your consideration:

- **Option 1:** July 12th – July 25th, 2026
- **Option 2:** July 19th – August 1st, 2026

Group Size: 6-20 Pax (including teachers)

This proposal has been thoughtfully drawn up to accommodate a service-learning trip for a group of 6 to 20 participants, including accompanying staff.

Based on discussions with REACH Siem Reap, this range allows for highly effective on-site volunteering. Should your group size be towards the higher end of this range, we are prepared to collaborate with them on a rotating schedule, such as splitting students into two groups where one participates in volunteering during the mornings while the other engages in afternoon activities, ensuring an impactful experience for everyone.

Logistics

From the moment your group arrives at Siem Reap International Airport, our dedicated team will be there to provide a seamless and welcoming experience. Airport transfers, accommodation, meals and daily transportation will be meticulously arranged to ensure comfort and convenience.

Throughout the tour, you'll have the opportunity to explore Siem Reap and its surrounding areas by tuk-tuk, a quintessential Cambodian mode of transport. This not only offers a unique cultural experience but also directly supports local livelihoods. Our experienced drivers will navigate the city's bustling streets, ensuring a safe and enjoyable journey.



Itinerary Overview:

To align with your stated interests in service learning, leadership development, and adventure, we have crafted a comprehensive itinerary that offers a unique blend of cultural immersion and community engagement. This immersive experience will empower your students to develop valuable life skills, foster cross-cultural understanding, and contribute positively to the Cambodian community.

RIPPLE EFFECT RIDES

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www.rippleeffectrides.com

#613, Phum Mondol I, Sangkat Svay Dangcum, Krong Siemreap

The following itinerary is a suggested framework, designed to inspire and inform. We are flexible and can tailor the program to meet your specific needs and preferences.

Day & Location	Tours & Service-Learning Activities	Volunteering	Transportation
Day 1 Saturday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siem Reap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airport Pick-up • Hotel Check-in • Student Goal Setting Session • Dinner with Guest Speaker from REACH Siem Reap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A/C Vehicle for Airport Pick-up (45 minutes) • Tuk-tuks available for transport in Siem Reap until 9:00 PM
Day 2 Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siem Reap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phare, The Cambodian Circus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour of REACH Siem Reap & Induction / Policy Test • Co-Creation of Service-Learning Trip T-Shirt Design • REACH Youth Market Challenge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuk-tuks available for transport in Siem Reap from 7:00 AM until 9:00 PM
Day 3 Monday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siem Reap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silkscreen T-Shirt Printing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday assembly induction of students to Primary School kids at REACH • Students to participate in and support a wide variety of electives 	
Day 4 Tuesday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siem Reap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco-Soap Factory Workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteering at REACH 	
Day 5 Wednesday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siem Reap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit APOPO Hero Rats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteering at REACH 	
Day 6 Thursday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siem Reap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunrise at Angkor Wat • Temple Tour Bike Ride • Monk Blessing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteering at REACH 	
Day 7 Friday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siem Reap • Battambang 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive to Battambang • Hotel Check-in • Visit the Bat Caves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A/C Vehicle for Battambang Transfer • A/C Vehicle available in Battambang
Day 8 Saturday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battambang • Siem Reap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free for morning activities • Drive to Siem Reap in the afternoon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A/C Vehicle available in Battambang • A/C Vehicle for Siem Reap Transfer • Tuk-tuks available for transport in Siem Reap until 9:00 PM

Day 9 Sunday • Siem Reap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scavenger Hunt at Botanical Gardens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing session with Youth and cultural exchange session with Youth Pathways students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuk-tuks available for transport in Siem Reap from 7:00 AM until 9:00 PM
Day 10 Monday • Siem Reap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tonle Sap excursion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteering at REACH 	
Day 11 Tuesday • Siem Reap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lotus Farm visit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteering at REACH + Outreach Village Ride Along (in small groups) 	
Day 12 Wednesday • Siem Reap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fairtrade shopping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteering at REACH + Final Assembly 	
Day 13 Thursday • Siem Reap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Impact Cycling Day Tour in the countryside Free evening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	
Day 14 Friday • Siem Reap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hotel Check-out Airport Drop-off Tour Ends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuk-tuks available for transport in Siem Reap from 7:00 AM until hotel check-out A/C Vehicle for Airport drop-up (45 minutes)

Volunteering Placement Explained:

The core of your service-learning experience will be a week-long immersion at REACH Siem Reap. Through a collaborative effort between Ripple Effect Rides and REACH, we have designed a program that combines cultural exchange, community engagement, and hands-on volunteering.

Merici College students will participate in an "Introduction to Ethical Volunteering" workshop, where they will learn about the principles of responsible volunteering and the specific needs of the local community. This will prepare them for a meaningful and impactful volunteer experience.

Following the induction, Merici College students will be placed into volunteer roles that align with their interests and skills. These roles may include assisting with English language classes, tutoring, sports coaching, or supporting community development projects. They will have the opportunity to engage in experiential learning activities alongside Cambodian youth, fostering cross-cultural friendships and understanding. Additionally, they will assist REACH's local team in conducting elective classes for younger learners, learning from our local facilitators while engaging in rewarding activities within the school.

The Merici College students will also have the opportunity to support the preparation of daily meals for the children, gaining hands-on experience in food preparation and sharing meals with the local community. To deepen their understanding of the social context and the impact of REACH's programs, students will participate in a respectful ride-along with social workers, gaining insights into the challenges faced by the local community.

Key Service-Learning Activities:

- **Community Immersion:** Engage in meaningful volunteer work alongside REACH staff and local youth, contributing to projects in education.
- **Cultural Exchange:** Participate in cultural exchange activities with REACH youth, such as traditional martial arts and community workshops.
- **Leadership Development:** Develop leadership skills through group activities, problem-solving exercises, and reflection sessions.
- **Global Citizenship:** Gain a deeper understanding of global issues, such as poverty, inequality, and sustainability.

Tour Activities Explained:

As per the itinerary, we are proposing a wide-variety of service-learning activities and highlights on this custom 13-night, 14-day service-learning tour in Siem Reap and Battambang. See below a more detailed description of each activity:



Induction to Socially Responsible Tourism:

Before embarking on your adventure, our dedicated Community Guide will provide a comprehensive induction on socially responsible tourism. Your students will gain insights into Cambodia's rich history, culture, and current social challenges. Our guide will also equip you with essential knowledge on child safeguarding and ethical travel practices, ensuring that your interactions with local communities are respectful and beneficial.



Custom T-Shirt Printing at Silk Screen:

Embark on a creative journey at the Silk Screen Printing Lab, an ethical workshop that empowers local artisans. Design and print your own unique tour t-shirt, capturing the spirit of your adventure. Collaborate with REACH youth to create a joint design, fostering cultural exchange and friendship. You can even choose to donate a batch of t-shirts to REACH, so that their students can also wear the custom shirt long after your group has left Cambodia.



Phare, The Cambodian Circus:

Immerse yourself in the captivating world of the Phare Cambodian Circus, a renowned social enterprise. Witness breathtaking acrobatics, dance, and live music, all infused with a unique Cambodian flair. Beyond the dazzling performance, Phare serves a powerful social purpose.

This NGO provides vital education, vocational training, and artistic opportunities for underprivileged Cambodian youth, empowering them to build brighter futures and preserve Cambodia's rich cultural heritage.



Social Impact Rides with our Team:

Throughout your stay, you'll have the opportunity to embark on a series of exhilarating bike rides, each designed to provide a unique perspective on Cambodian culture, landscape, and social impact. Unlike traditional cycling tours, our rides go beyond the physical challenge, offering opportunities to connect with local communities and contribute to sustainable development. Join our experienced guides on a journey through picturesque countryside villages, where you can interact with locals and learn about their daily lives.



Visit to APOPO Visitor Centre:

Unveiling the lifesaving work of animals, a visit to Siem Reap's APOPO Hero Rat Visitor Center offers a unique experience. Spend 1-hour learning about the impressive training of African pouched rats to detect landmines, a crucial task in Cambodia's recovery from conflict. Witness a demonstration of these intelligent rodents in action, and gain insight into the significant role they play in clearing landmines and creating safer communities.



Visit to Fair Trade Markets:

Explore the vibrant world of fair trade and support local artisans by visiting a local fair-trade market. You'll have the chance to purchase unique handicrafts, such as beautiful scarves, intricate jewelry, and traditional artwork. By choosing fair trade products, you'll be directly contributing to the livelihoods of local artisans and supporting sustainable development.



Sunrise Temple Tour:

Rise early and join our guides for a breathtaking sunrise at the world-famous Angkor Wat. Watch as the ancient temple complex comes to life, bathed in the golden light of dawn. Explore the intricate carvings, towering spires, and serene reflecting pools.

To make the experience even more engaging, we can incorporate a fun quiz or game to test your knowledge of Angkor Wat's history and architecture.



Kampung Phluk Floating Village Visit:

Embark on a unique cultural experience by visiting the floating villages of Kampong Phluk. Glide through the serene waterways of the Tonle Sap Lake and witness the unique lifestyle of the local people.

Learn about the challenges and resilience of these communities as they navigate the ever-changing landscape of the lake.



Team Building at the Botanic Gardens:

Start your day with a leisurely stroll through the serene Angkor Botanical Garden. Amidst lush greenery and exotic flora, our guides will lead you on a fun photography scavenger hunt.

Capture the beauty of the gardens, challenge your creativity, and bond with your fellow classmates. It's a perfect way to kickstart your day and create lasting memories.



Apsara Dance Show:

The Apsara Dance Show, featured at the Apsara Theatre, offers an enchanting evening dedicated to Cambodia's rich cultural heritage and traditional performing arts.

Audiences can experience a captivating performance featuring dancers, singers, and musicians who bring to life three classical and two vibrant village dances, all set to the music of a traditional orchestra.

To make this floating village experience even more special, you can invite a class of REACH students to join you on this excursion. Many of these children have never had the opportunity to visit the floating villages, and this would be a truly unforgettable experience for them.

The above activities are based on our personal recommendations and highlight some of the most impactful and adventurous service-learning experiences that Siem Reap has to offer.

Other optional activities that we recommend within Siem Reap are:

- Learning the art of pottery making at Khmer Ceramics
- Local Market & Khmer Cooking Lesson
- Visit to the Landmine Museum
- A day at Wake Park Cambodia
- Overnight homestay at Prek Toal bird sanctuary
- Visit to ACCB Conservation center followed by 1 hour trek up to Kbal Spean

Meals and Dining Experiences:

Your tour includes a variety of delicious and nutritious meals, with breakfast and lunch provided daily. We're committed to supporting local businesses and promoting sustainable food practices. To align with our social impact goals, we'll prioritize dining at socially responsible restaurants that prioritize local ingredients and provide vital vocational training programs.

Here are some of the amazing eateries we'll explore:

- [The Bygone Café](#)
- [Haven Training Restaurant](#)
- [Sa La Bai Training Restaurant](#)
- [New Leaf Eatery](#)
- [Bayon Pastry School](#)



By choosing these establishments, we contribute to a sustainable tourism model that empowers the community. These restaurants are not only delicious but also make a significant social impact, supporting at-risk youth through vocational training programs and donating a portion of their profits to local NGOs. For our adventures to more remote locations, our team will prepare delicious picnic lunches featuring fresh salads, baguettes, and other delectable treats.

Accommodation:

Siem Reap – The Secret Garden Hotel



The Secret Garden Hotel in Siem Reap offers a unique and socially conscious travel experience. Functioning as a social enterprise, it directly supports local community organizations, particularly the Youth's Dream Fulfilment Association (YDFA), by providing invaluable hospitality training to young Cambodians.

<https://www.facebook.com/SecretGardenHomestay/>

Battambang – Classy Hotel & Spa



Classy Hotel, a comfortable accommodation nestled in the heart of Battambang, Cambodia. With its prime location just 0.5 kilometers from the city center, this hotel offers convenience and accessibility to all the attractions and landmarks that this charming city has to offer.

<https://classyhotelspa.com/>

Costing

Pax	6 – 9	10 – 16	17 – 20
Cost per Person	\$2,200 USD pp	\$2,200 USD pp	\$2,200 USD pp
Discounts	N/A	2 x Teacher @ 50%	3 x Teacher @ 50%
Tour Inclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 x Nights at Secret Garden Hotel in bunk rooms • 1 x Night at Classy Hotel & Spa in twin shared rooms • 13 x Lunches and dinners at social enterprises and training centers (breakfast included in your hotel stay) • 1 x Experienced Local Tour Guide • 1 x Community Guide from 10 pax • Airport pick-up & drop-off in A/C Vehicles • A/C Vehicles to support transfer while travelling to Battambang and return • Tuk-tuks to support customers daily travel within Siem Reap (3-4 per vehicle) • 1 x Silkscreen T-shirt printing activity • 1 x Phare, The Cambodian Circus Ticket (Seat A) • 1 x Eco-Soap Factory Tour & Workshop • 1 x APOPO Ticket • 1 x Sunrise Cycling Temple Tour + Monk Blessing • 1 x Social Impact Cycling Day Tour • 1 x Bat Cave visit • 1 x Scavenger Hunt activity • 1 x Apsara Dance Show Ticket • 1 x Tonle Sap Excursion • 1 x Lotus Farm Ticket (Package 3) • 1 x Merchandise pack including (canvas bag & drink bottle) • 1-day Angkor Temples complex ticket • Donations to local pagodas / parking and tips to all local service providers 		
Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol • Flights • Travel Insurance • Tips & gratuities for Ripple Effect Rides staff (optional) 		
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel insurance is mandatory for all Ripple Effect Rides customers • All group members must provide copies of their passports, sign & adhere to the Child Protection Policies outlined • Adults must provide a police clearance document 		

Fundraising Support REACH Siem Reap:

To ensure the most effective and transparent support for REACH, we recommend discussing fundraising strategies directly with the REACH Siem Reap team. They can provide tailored advice on approaches that could meaningfully involve your students. It's advisable to fundraise directly through their Australian registered charity. Typically, REACH requests a placement donation of \$450 AUD per volunteer to support their programs. However, this amount may vary depending on the specific partnership arrangements. As volunteers, in exchange for your group placement fee, your students will receive a REACH T-shirt, a merchandise pack, and ongoing support throughout their time at the NGO.

**Summary:**

We believe this proposed service-learning tour to Cambodia offers a unique and transformative experience for Merici College students. By combining academic rigor, cultural immersion, and community engagement, this tour will empower students to become global citizens and make a positive impact on the world. We are confident that our expertise, commitment to social impact, and strong partnerships with local organisations will ensure a successful and unforgettable journey for your students.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or require further information. We are eager to discuss your specific needs and tailor the itinerary to meet your goals.

Best Regards,

MARCO TERRANOVA

CO-OWNER & OPERATIONS MANAGER