

# FARM HOUSE

SMILING GECKO



VISIT TO THE HOLISTIC SOCIAL PROJECT 'SMILING GECKO'  
NEAR PHNOM PENH IN CAMBODIA



Located in the countryside about 80 km north of Phnom Penh, the farm of Smiling Gecko is surrounded by paddy fields and rolling hills. During a two-day trip, you have the opportunity to gain an insight into the structures of an innovative and holistic social project and the work we do on the ground. You will meet the families who will show you the Smiling Gecko farm. You will visit the new Smiling Gecko School

and see for yourself the progress made in our long-term school project. From the Smiling Gecko Guesthouse, you can take a walk into the hills to visit the local Buddhist monastery and watch the monks during their morning prayer while enjoying a breath-taking sunrise. By staying at the "Farmhouse Smiling Gecko", you support the sustainable Smiling Gecko cluster project and contribute to its success.

## ACCOMMODATION

The Smiling Gecko Guesthouse is located on the project's farming premises. You will stay in one of our 34 rooms in 17 spacious stilt bungalows built in the traditional local style. Our double rooms come with a double bed and mosquito net as well as a rain shower, toilet and fan. An extra bed is available upon request. All our timber-built bungalows have their own terrace from where you can enjoy a view of the countryside. The stilt houses combine the charm of traditional Cambodian architecture with modern sanitary facilities.









## FEEDBACK FROM OUR VISITORS

„The two days at Smiling Gecko were incredible. We got deep impressions, which shaped our understanding of the previously so enigmatic Cambodia.

In addition to the exciting and informative tours to the nearby school, to the fish market and to the land of Smiling Gecko itself, we enjoyed a wonderful service. The staff were friendly and attentive and spoiled us with wonderful and delicious dishes.

We spent the night in beautiful, authentic farm bungalows, which are in the middle of the area of the burgeoning project. We can only recommend the stay at Smiling Gecko and we ourselves are going to return soon, to see how the project has evolved.”

Silja and Kay von Merey

„What happens if you combine the Swiss way of cooking and gastronomy with Asian cuisine? An explosion of the senses! It was indeed a plunge into a new world of the senses. The native cook, who was trained at the Hotel Management School Lucerne, prepared magical and innovative dishes, which redefine the Southeast Asian cuisine. It was a wonderful experience, which not only captivated by the choice of the menu, but also by the presentation, served by a charming crew – polished by a trainer from Lucerne - and all this in an incredible setting. The food created by the team of Smiling Gecko was an inspiration, I am already looking forward to my next visit and I am sure that the inclusion in the Gault Millau will not be an ‚if‘ but a ‚when‘.”

Thomas R. Meier



## FOOD

At the Smiling Gecko Guesthouse, we train local chefs and other hospitality staff. For lunch, we serve traditional Cambodian dishes, while our dinners are a fusion of Western and local Khmer cuisine. On request, we offer vegetarian dishes and a

children’s menu. To start your day, we offer you a rich and varied breakfast. Wherever possible, our chefs use fresh produce straight from the Smiling Gecko farm. Coffee and tea are included in our prices. We also offer wine, beer, fruit juices and other drinks.





## THE TEAM

The Farmhouse is run by a well-trained Cambodian hotel manager. Our head chef Mariya Nuon is also Cambodian, and lets the local cuisine flourish in her creative way. Some of her special dishes have already been added to their own menus by Swiss top chefs.

The Farmhouse also receives support and coaching from the Foundation Uccelin,

which was initiated by 3 Michelin stars and 19 Gault Millau points awarded top chef Andreas Caminada, to promote culinary and service talents. As a part of this close cooperation, all Uccelin graduates travel to Cambodia for 4 to 8 weeks to serve as mentors and trainers for the hotel kitchen and service teams.

A visit to the Farmhouse restaurant is a culinary delight.



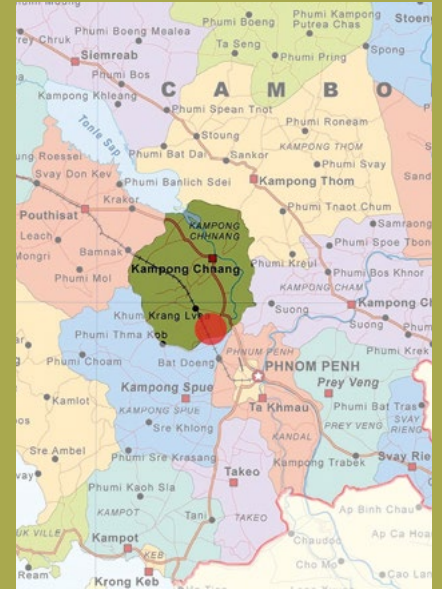
## LOCATION

The Farmhouse Smiling Gecko is located about 80 km north of Phnom Penh.

Please note that, for organisational reasons, you can only visit the Smiling Gecko project by booking in advance and staying at the Farmhouse Smiling Gecko!

Our address:

**Farmhouse Smiling Gecko**  
Samaki Meanchey district  
Kampong Chhnang province  
Cambodia



## TOUR PROGRAM

The visit of the holistic social project Smiling Gecko is designed as a tour and can be booked in 3 options. At each option you will be picked up at your hotel or at the airport in Phnom Penh.

The included program points are the same, but the tours vary in terms of timing.

### Option 1

One Night Tour with early pick up

### Option 2

One Night Tour with late pick up

### Option 3

Two (or more) Night Tour

Option 3 can be individually tailored to the needs of a guest and can be freely planned for 2 or more nights.

The tour program will be spread over the duration of the stay in the Farmhouse Smiling Gecko, additional program points are possible at an extra charge.

#### INCLUDED IN PRICE

- Transfer from/to your hotel in Phnom Penh by minibus or similar vehicle.
- All activities on the Smiling Gecko farm.
- Accommodation in double room bungalow with en-suite shower/toilet. All meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) and coffee/tea.
- Local tour guide accompanying you during the entire trip (guided tours in English).



#### Included program points

- Tour of the SGC Farm Project. You visit the farms to get an insight into the social project Smiling Gecko, including the various construction sites of the new Smiling Gecko projects
- Tour to visit an impressive temple hill
- Ride on the Bamboo Train through rural Cambodia
- Visit of a Garment Factory - you will observe how casual workers are ferried on open lorries from the countryside to the textile factories in the outskirts of Phnom Penh where they work under very harsh conditions for very little money, barely making a living. This daily spectacle is a sad reminder of what is behind the cheap products we buy from Asia. (Not available on Sundays and public holidays)
- Visit to the Smiling Gecko school project - you will see the students in the schoolyard celebrating their classic morning ritual and you will get insight in a school day. (Not available on Sundays and public holidays)

SGC reserves all rights to change or alter this program without or at short notice if unforeseen circumstances occur.





By staying at the Farmhouse Smiling Gecko, every guest contributes to the sustainable Smiling Gecko cluster project and the success of this approach.

The Farmhouse is now immediately available for booking with two days' notice.

In order to make it even more attractive for visitors, we have established an infrastructure that also makes a longer visit a relaxing experience with a great recreational value. In our two Yoga Shalas we offer yoga courses, seminars, workshops and meditation for travel groups and individual travellers. You can also receive treatments from trained masseurs in the accompanying massage centre. Experience a new harmony of body, mind and soul. The spacious swimming pool on the grounds of the Farmhouse, built by the employees and trainees of our carpentry, also invites you to relax and unwind.

With its three small lakes and surrounding rice fields, our quiet location in the middle of the Smiling Gecko cluster project situated 80 km away from the metropolitan centre of Phnom Penh is the ideal place for a few relaxing days, whether you are travelling alone or with the entire family.

A trip on the Bamboo Train through rural Cambodia is sure to be an unforgettable experience.

We also recommend a visit to our first-class restaurant on the trip from Phnom Penh to Battambang. Larger groups are also welcome upon prior reservation.



## ABOUT SMILING GECKO

Smiling Gecko Cambodia (SGC) was established in 2014 as a local NGO. It provides direct aid, following its motto of «Cambodians for Cambodians».

Smiling Gecko assists families and children in need. The charity wants to help Cambodians to leave poverty and deprivation behind, offering them real long-term prospects. Apart from providing direct aid and supporting other NGOs, Smiling Gecko focuses on fighting the causes of poverty and helping people to help themselves. To achieve these goals, Smiling Gecko believes that migration to the cities and urbanisation must be stopped by offering rural people viable alternatives. By implementing promising concepts focusing on education and working conditions, the charity wants to ensure that people can gain secure employment and earn a living wage without leaving the countryside. Smiling Gecko is also involved in a resettlement program to bring people back from the slums in and around Phnom Penh.

Since 2014, SGC purchased a 150 ha site in the northern province of Kampong Chnang, which is at the heart of the organisation's holistic cluster project. The cluster is based on the pillars agriculture, tourism, crafts and school, whose subprojects intertwine and should be self-financing in the long run. Through its partnership with a number of well-known educational and training institutions such as ETH Zurich (Department of Architecture and Construction), ZHAW Wädenswil, Zurich University of Teacher Education (PHZH), School of Education at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW), and the agricultural college of LBBZ Schluechthof Cham, Smiling Gecko Cambodia has established a unique network driving innovation. By cooperating with local and national governments, the charity hopes that its innovative approach will be adopted by state bodies and institutions.





## THE SMILING GECKO PRINCIPLE

Unlike most traditional NGOs, Smiling Gecko's cluster projects pursue a holistic approach that leads to a sustainable improvement in the lives of a society. At the start of 2014, the vision was to expand Smiling Gecko as a holistic cluster project. Since then, many jobs and apprenticeships have been created in agriculture, tourism, crafts and schools. By 2025, many other projects in the field of industry and crafts will follow. All projects are planned according to humanitarian and ecological as well as economic aspects. They should support themselves mid-term and then contribute to the financing of the school and thus also to the education of the children. This creates an exemplary model of a functioning, rural

community that provides people with education, decent work and a sustainable income. The Farmhouse Smiling Gecko is also primarily established to offer disadvantaged local people a training opportunity where they can acquire skills that will enable them and their families to live in dignity, away from poverty and hunger. All projects are based on stringent humanitarian and ecological principles, with due regard to economic factors, and will hopefully be self-supporting in the medium term.

For more detailed INFORMATION about Smiling Gecko and its projects, please visit:

[www.smilinggecko.ch](http://www.smilinggecko.ch)



## **CONTACT**

Smiling Gecko Cambodia  
No. 4, St. 490  
Sangkat Phsar Doeum Thkov  
Khan Chamkarmorn  
12307 Phnom Penh  
Cambodia

+855 11 67 95 95

info@farmhouse-smilinggecko.com  
farmhouse-smilinggecko.com

## **BOOKING INQUIRY FARMHOUSE SMILING GECKO**

We would be delighted to arrange your two- or three-day trip to the FARMHOUSE SMILING GECKO. On request, our cooperating partners would gladly offer you a complete package for your holiday in Cambodia, based of course on your personal wishes and preferences.  
info@farmhouse-smilinggecko.com

