



ANGKOR

THE LOST EMPIRE
OF CAMBODIA



IMAGES

Angkor sites and object photography by Antony Holvoet, 2021, Cruise Media Productions (apart from photo on p. 21 by Guadalupe Polito, *shutterstock.com*, photo on p. 22 by Lenalensen, 2016, *pixabay.com*, and photoon back cover by Dmitry Rukhlenko, *stock.adobe.com*.), exhibition photography by California Science Center, 2022.
Cover by Isabel Inhoven, photos by Boule and Steffen Hoppe, *shutterstock.com*.

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Ancient Angkor has fascinated scientists and captured public imagination for over a century. **1**

Explore, through science, the rise, fall, and resilience of ancient Angkor. **2**

In an immersive setting, see exhibits and over 120 original treasures of ancient Angkor and Cambodia, many on tour for the first time. **3**

Through advances in science and technology learn about the artistry, history, and significance of this ancient empire. **4**



The vast metropolis of Angkor, now shrouded by jungle in present-day Cambodia, was once the center of one of the greatest empires the world has ever seen. Enormous monuments to the gods such as Angkor Wat are among the most remarkable achievements in all of human history, and towered over sprawling cities made of wood which, over the centuries, have vanished almost without a trace.

The reasons for the precipitous decline of Angkor, and the cultural resilience of the Khmer people who built it, have fascinated scientists for one and a half centuries. Thanks to new advances in science and technology including ground excavations, aerial mapping, and modern remote sensing, we are finally coming to terms with the vast scope and accomplishments of this empire. In this exhibition, explore the art and artifacts of ancient Angkor through the lens of science. Experience how each period of exploration and discovery — equipped with the cutting-edge tools of the day — has expanded our knowledge about this civilization. Through the lens of Khmer culture, discover the meaning and significance of what science has revealed, and the foundation of Angkor's enduring resilience.



ARCHITECTURE & CONTENT

- **Size** Approximately 700 to 1,500 m² (8,000 to 16,000 sq. ft.)
- **Number of objects** approx. 120 original objects. Venue to provide facility reports. Final loans dependent on approved facility reports.
- **Exhibition furniture** All exhibition furniture including display cases, scenery, projections.
- **Display cases** Display cases have their own lighting. Standard museum gallery environmental conditions required at venue.
- **Graphics** Photos, textiles, and graphic panels including all texts, which can be adapted for two languages.
- **Interactives** All furniture, displays and control systems included.
- **Films** All Projectors, video displays, speaker systems, media players and control systems included.
- **All audio/visual material** Available in two languages.
- **Catalogue/Book** Yes.

LOGISTICS

- **Insurance and shipping.**
- **Installation and dismantling crew** from *MuseumsPartner* plus couriers from the lending museum, including travel and accommodation.

PUBLICATION

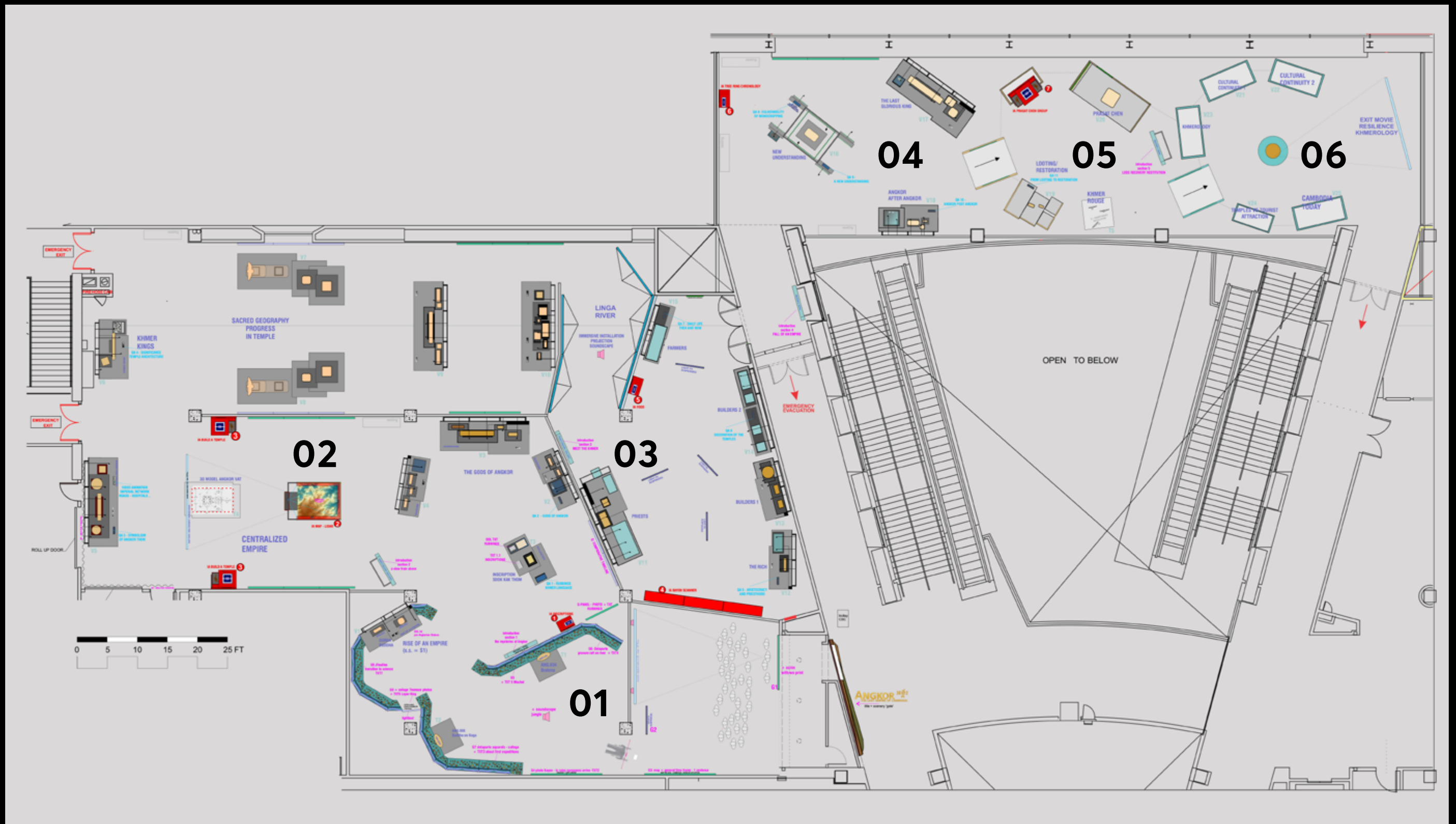
- A **catalogue** is available on consignment.

MARKETING MATERIAL

- **High-resolution images** of the key images, objects and the exhibition are available to the venue at no cost. All final graphic representations by the venue are to be approved by our lending museums and *MuseumsPartner* to ensure adherence to proper citing of partners and lenders.

ADDITIONAL COSTS FOR HOST VENUE

- Marketing and promotion
- Merchandise
- Maintenance during display period
- Gallery lighting
- Walls, wall painting
- Operational costs — ticketing, security, programming, etc.



01 From Legend to science

02 Angkor from above

03 Meet the people

04 The end of Empire

05 The lost and the found

06 Resilience and Continuity



MAIN MESSAGES

- Early archaeologists examine the artifacts, and inscriptions to understand the history and religions of an ancient Khmer empire at Angkor.
- Angkor is a living temple complex where objects and bas-reliefs indicate different religions coexisted peacefully for centuries.

CONTENT

- 17 sculptures of the gods of Angkor, an original rubbing.
- Introduction movie
- Reproductions of archive documents (drawings, travelogues and pictures) from the first Western explorers in Angkor
- Timeline

AV & INTERACTIVE ELEMENTS

- Interactive: Inscriptions
- Films: immersive intro film, Khmer Language and Inscriptions, Gods of Angkor.
- Q&A with scientists

KEY OBJECTS

- Buddha sheltered by the naga
- Sadashiva





MAIN MESSAGES

- The ancient Khmer kings establish their power by building grand temples, terraforming on a grand scale, providing prosperity for the people, and creating the sacred world on Earth.
- The design of the engineered landscape reveal Angkor as a cosmogram in which the home of the gods, who reside among mythical mountains and oceans, is recreated on the Earth's surface as temples and reservoirs.

CONTENT

- 22 archaeological artifacts expressing the symbolism and refinement of Angkor temples' architecture, displayed as an immersive installation in their original layout.
- Lidar interactive map
- Aerial views of Angkor region showing the development of aerial prospection during the last century
- Hand-on 3D puzzle of a temple
- Model of the central part of Angkor Wat
- Movie and pictures of the different temples of Angkor

AV & INTERACTIVE ELEMENTS

- Films: Symbolism Angkor Thom, Significance of Temple Architecture
- Interactives: Lidar Map, Build a temple
- Q&A with scientists



KEY OBJECTS

- Miniature monument
- Garuda guardian



MAIN MESSAGES

- Ancient Angkor was home to a large, complex society. The economy supported a population of specialized priesthood and a ruling class and the construction of highly decorated temples overseen by specialized craftsmen.
- Angkor was based on water management on a grand scale through wet and dry seasons and intensive rice cultivation. In addition, in addition to fishing, garden vegetables, household pigs and poultry, commerce and trade supported the growth of the empire.

CONTENT

- 45 archaeological artifacts in bronze, silver, sandstone and earthenware attesting the richness of the ruling class and the rituals within the temples, as well as the daily life of the different classes of society.
- The section is introduced by an immersive installation of movie shots of Kbal Spean carved river, includes the replica of an Angkorian harp and two hands-on interactives — a decoding game of everyday life's scenes of Bayon bas-reliefs, and a Cambodian cooking lesson.

AV & INTERACTIVE ELEMENTS

- Interactives: Bayon Wall Scanner, Khmer Food
- Films: Aristocracy — Priesthood, Decoration of Temples, Daily Life Then and Now
- Q&A with scientists

KEY OBJECTS

- Conch
- Roof-end tile





MAIN MESSAGES

- Angkor has a history of internal and external political and religious conflicts that contributed to its downfall.
- Terraforming and monocropping transformed the landscape which supported a large population but made the ecosystem vulnerable to change.
- The fall of Angkor wasn't the end. Angkor continued to be a lived-in temple complex.

CONTENT

- 10 masterpieces sculptures and inscriptions testifying of warfare, social and religious changes in the last centuries of Angkor.
- A hand-on interactive about dendrochronology.

AV & INTERACTIVE ELEMENTS

- Interactive: Tree Ring Analysis
- Films: Vulnerability of Monocropping, A New Understanding, Angkor Post Angkor
- Q&A with scientists

KEY OBJECTS

- Portrait of Jayavarman VII
- Buddha on a stela





MAIN MESSAGES

- Looting from the heritage sites of Cambodia has been a long-term problem. While many stolen artifacts have been returned, the repatriation process continues.
- Museum conservators repair damaged objects

CONTENT

- A selection of three artifacts repatriated to Cambodia and restored at the National Museum in Phnom Penh
- An interactive about the Prasat Chen statuary group's reunification
- An installation honoring the victims of the Khmer rouge regime



AV & INTERACTIVE ELEMENTS

- Interactive: Koh Ker — Prasat Chen Sculptures
- Film: From Looting to Restoration
- Q&A with scientists

KEY OBJECT

- Pandava brother (Sahadeva?)





MAIN MESSAGES

- Headed by a new generation of Cambodian scientists, research continues at Angkor providing new perspectives on the history of Angkor with lessons for the world today.
- Anthropology researches led by Cambodian scientists confirm while the Angkor empire rose and fell, the Khmer culture has been resilient throughout the centuries on the site of the sacred lands of Angkor.
- Guardians maintain Angkor as a living site of worship, a heritage site meant to be preserved, and an attraction open to international tourism.



CONTENT

- Three ancient artifacts exhibited with a selection of the finest Cambodian nowadays' crafts for living arts of dance and shadow theater showing the cultural link and continuity with Angkor period.
- An altar for offering, as the ones that can be seen in Angkor, shows the way contemporary people of Cambodia worship statues of Angkor in the temples.

AV & INTERACTIVE ELEMENTS

- Film: Outro film
- Q&A with scientists

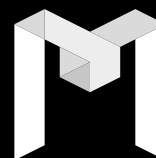
KEY OBJECTS

- Costume of an Apsara dancer
Female divinity



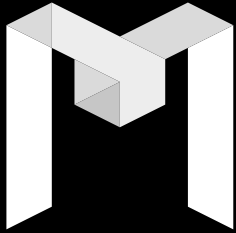


Located in the heart of Los Angeles, the California Science Center is a world-class educational resource and family destination for visitors of all ages to explore the wonders of science. The Science Center fulfills its mission to stimulate curiosity and inspire science learning in everyone by creating fun, memorable experiences through hands-on exhibits, live demonstrations, innovative programs and awe-inspiring films in state-of-the-art IMAX with Laser. General admission is FREE to extraordinary exhibits ranging from Endeavour — one of only three remaining flown space shuttles, to Ecosystems — with live animals in living habitats including a 188,000-gallon kelp forest tank.



In cooperation with international museums, *MuseumsPartner* has conceived a range of traveling exhibitions that are informative and engaging for a multitude of audiences and easy to adapt to different spaces. We offer these exhibitions under a turnkey contract which ensures that our clients are guaranteed a secure investment customized for their own institution without any surprises. Drawing on our extensive experience in fine art transport, we provide full services to our partners and offer project management, logistics and financial management.





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