Detailed Expatriation Checklist Cambodia

A. Before You Leave (30–60 days)

- Passport with at least 6 months validity plus printed copies and scanned backups.
- Choose the right visa type (tourist, business, E-class, etc.) and prepare required documentation.
- Obtain comprehensive international health insurance covering emergencies and repatriation.
- Prepare a budget for settling in plus a financial cushion covering 3 to 6 months of expenses.
- Digitize important documents: diplomas, employment contracts, prescriptions, vaccination records.
- Cancel or redirect mail, set up bank power of attorney if needed.
- Get recommended vaccinations (hepatitis A/B, typhoid, rabies, tetanus) and a medical check-up if necessary.
- Make sure you have international bank cards usable in Cambodia.
- Store scanned ID documents securely on cloud storage.
- Arrange certified translations of official documents when required.
- Prepare electrical adapters and multipliers.
- Arrange the sale, storage, or shipping of your belongings.

B. On Arrival (First 1–2 Weeks)

- Purchase a local SIM card (Metfone, Cellcard, Smart) or use eSIM technology.
- Secure temporary accommodation and visit potential long-term rental properties.
- Locate supermarkets, local markets, and pharmacies.
- Open a local bank account if needed (ABA Bank, ACLEDA, Cambodian Public Bank).
- Use local payment methods: cash in USD + riel, ABA Pay, Wing mobile apps.
- Download transportation apps like PassApp, Grab, and Tada.
- Scout coworking spaces, cafés with Wi-Fi, and gyms.
- Join expat groups on Facebook such as "Phnom Penh Expats" and "Siem Reap Expats".
- Identify English-speaking hospitals and clinics like Royal Phnom Penh Hospital or International SOS Clinic.

- Important emergency numbers:
  - Police: 117 or 666
  - Fire brigade: 118
  - Ambulance: 119
  - French Embassy Emergency Line: +855 12 591 209 (source)

C. Settling In (Months 1–3)

- Sign rental contracts after inspecting properties by day and night; check deposit and utility bills.
- Set up reliable internet service (Metfone, Ezecom, Opennet).
- Apply for visa extensions or work permits through the Cambodian Immigration Department.
- Choose a trusted local doctor and clinic.
- Consider subscribing to a local or international health insurance plan.
- Build daily routines: exercise, Khmer language learning, cultural outings, volunteering, networking.
- Develop a social and professional network via events and expat organizations.
- Research tax residency and fiscal obligations both locally and in your home country.
- Monitor monthly expenses realistically, including rent, utilities (electricity for air conditioning 50–100 USD), food, and transportation.

Common Pitfalls to Avoid

- Do not sign leases without visiting properties both by day and night.
- Do not underestimate the need for good health insurance; private clinics can be expensive.
- Avoid depending solely on one source of income.
- Take electricity bills seriously, especially due to air conditioning costs.
- Regularly check for updates on visa rules and extensions.
- Always wear a helmet when riding a motorcycle; prioritize road safety.
- Do not rely only on cash; keep mobile and banking payment options as backups.