

The Poor Man's Railway

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Riding on one of Cambodia's "bamboo trains" is the closest thing this impoverished nation offers for a rollercoaster ride, but it's loads more fun than any hokey theme park attraction.

Equipped with a five-horsepower engine, the square, jury-rigged cart covered in bamboo mats hurtles over the rails near Battambang at up to 50 kilometers per hour -- three times the average speed of Cambodia's freight trains. As the vehicle wobbles back and forth atop metal wheels made from the gears of old bulldozers and army tanks, Cambodian passengers sit back for the commute while foreigners smile and enjoy the wind ...