



Kingdom Breweries

by Scott Coates
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While in Phnom Penh, Cambodia attending the [ASEAN Tourism Forum](#).

The brewery's welcoming sign

January 2011, I'd had a serious marathon of meetings on the first day and came upon something interesting. Walking by the booth for [Mekong Tourism](#), run by a friend, they were giving away free beer. And not only that, it was a relatively new beer I'd only had once before. Time to tuck in!



I first read of [Kingdom Breweries](#) in a [September 2010 copy of TIME Magazine](#). Being a frequent visitor to Cambodia I made a note to investigate further next time I was in the kingdom.

Clouded Leopard Pilsner was launched on October 1, 2010 and is currently Kingdom's only bottled beer. I had my first bottle in December at [Heritage Suites](#), a very nice property in Siem Reap we put guests at during our [Classic Cambodia](#) and [Amazing Angkor](#) adventures, while chatting with the GM of the hotel. I was so thirsty I didn't really pay much attention to the taste and was happy to have another chance here at the Tourism Forum.

Inside the brewery

Ms. Zana Leap, Kingdom's Taproom Manager and her team made sure the beer was ice-cold, were super-friendly and offered a new bottle before my current was empty. I was quickly becoming a fan. She invited me to come by the brewery sometime and have a look and that's just what I did the next day with a good friend.



In a tuk-tuk (chariot pulled by a motorcycle) with Trevor Ranges, author of [National Geographic Traveler's Cambodia guidebook](#), we made our way 5km north of the city center to Kingdom's brewery, really not sure what to expect. A huge sign caught our eye which was great as everything else in the area was non-descript. Large windows gave a view of huge brew tanks inside, the smell of hops was in the air and we made our way inside.

There wasn't much going on when we arrived, likely due to it being about 5:30pm on a

Thursday and we were directed by security to the third floor, home of Kingdom's Tap Room, where you can sip their brew. Zana was working, introduced us to her two co-workers and opened us a couple bottles, served in very cold glasses, a great touch. It was a bit of a disappointment that they didn't have any draught on offer. She explained they like to keep beer so fresh that unless then have a party coming in they don't tap a keg. We made do, enjoyed a few bottles on their balcony which overlooks the Thonle Sap River and felt like explorers being the only ones in the room.

Started by CEO Peter Brongers and German Brewmaster Peter Haupenthal,

Trevor & Scott enjoy a mug

Kingdom's setup is impressive. Many large tanks and state-of-the-art equipment occupy Nestle's former processing facility. Investment is obviously large and it's safe to assume Kingdom's here to make a long-term go of it. German and Czech hops, premium German malt and fresh water are used to make their pilsner and Zana said plans are in the works for a stout before the end of 2011.

If you're in Cambodia and enjoy beer be sure to try a bottle of Clouded Leopard Pilsner and even better, if you're in Phnom Penh and looking for a break from sightseeing head to [Kingdom Breweries](#). You can find them at No 1748, National Road 5, about 1km north of the Japanese bridge.