

Angkor Wat Temple: Eighth Wonder of the World

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Angkor Wat temple in Cambodia surpasses Pompeii to become the unofficial Eighth Wonder of the World.



[Ref: Britannica]

About Angkor Wat Temple:

- Angkor Wat is a temple complex located in Siem Reap, Northern Cambodia.
- It is also known as **Yasodharapura**.
- It is the **largest religious monument globally**, covering **1,200 square meters**.
- It holds the Guinness World Record for the **largest religious structure**.
- It derived from the Khmer word '**nokor**' (kingdom) and Sanskrit '**nagara**' (city).

Historical Background:

- Angkor Wat Temple was constructed in the **12th century** as a Hindu temple by **Khmer Emperor Suryavarman II**.
- It was initially dedicated to **Lord Vishnu**, and later transitioned into a **Buddhist temple**.

Cultural Importance:

- It is home to the famous **eight-armed Vishnu statue**, revered locally as a **protective deity**.
- The transition from **Hinduism to Buddhism** is reflected in the temple's intricate carvings, depicting **Hindu and Buddhist mythologies**.

Architectural Brilliance:

- The temple is constructed primarily using **sandstone blocks**.
- It has a **15-foot-high wall** and **moat** for protection.
- It has bas-reliefs depicting **Hindu and Buddhist deities** and **narratives**.
- The central temple complex symbolizes **Mount Meru**, a sacred mountain in Hindu and Buddhist cosmology.

