WAYFARER

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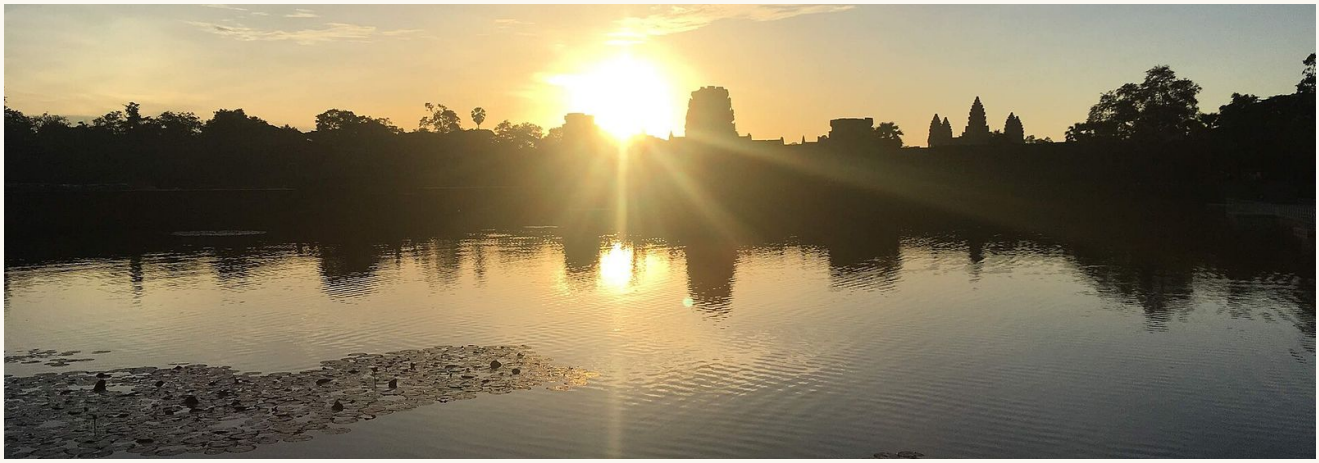
EDITOR'S DISPATCH

Ancient places make us feel small, which is part of their appeal. They also make us over-confident. A guide points at a carving and tells you exactly what it meant, and for a moment you forget that someone, somewhere, spent a career arguing about it.

This month we have tried to keep both feelings. We have written about places with dates that are not in dispute, the Chola temples, for example, and about others where the dates and the stories are still being argued over. Where sources disagree, we say so. Where we could not check something, we say that too.

- Gitanjali Gautam

LEAD STORY



Angkor, slowly: the Khmer capital beyond the sunrise queue

Angkor Wat is the postcard. The city around it, built over six centuries, is the story.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Imphal and Loktak: a royal citadel and a floating lake, with care
Manipur's heritage is some of the richest in the Northeast. Its present is complicated. Read this before you plan.

The Great Living Chola Temples: three towers, three kings
Thanjavur, Gangaikonda Cholapuram and Darasuram: a short temple trail that explains an empire.

Samarkand and Bukhara: the Silk Road cities
Two UNESCO-listed cities on the old trade routes of Central Asia, and a visa change for Indian travellers.

Egypt: the Grand Egyptian Museum, a year after opening
A museum beside the pyramids that finally shows Tutankhamun's treasures together.

The Solo Travel Safety Checklist
Ten sensible habits for travelling alone.

COMING UP (DATES APPROXIMATE - VERIFY)

Janmashtami
Across India · 4 September 2026

Ganesh Chaturthi
Mumbai, Pune and across India · 14 September 2026 (about ten days)

Ziro Festival of Music
Ziro Valley, Arunachal Pradesh · 24–27 September 2026

Prices, timings, permits and visa notes are approximate - please verify before booking.

Mysuru Dasara
Mysuru, Karnataka · 11–21 October 2026

ONE PRACTICAL TIP

Go to the biggest ancient site in the first hour after opening, or the last. The middle of the day is for the shade.

YOUR TURN

Which ancient place would you travel to just to stand in? Reply and tell us.

Read the full issue: travaah.com/magazine/2026-09/