

# Cardamom Tented Camp in Cambodia Wins PATA Gold Award for Ecotourism



Conservation-focused ecolodge and ecotourism project Cardamom Tented Camp in Cambodia, has won the 2019 PATA Gold Award in the Environment - Ecotourism Project category.

Some 27 tourism organisations won 33 honours in the 2019 Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Awards, which attracted 197 entries from 78 organisations world-wide. (Full winners list at <https://www.pata.org/news-media/press-releases/>)

Since opening in November 2017, Cardamom Tented Camp in Botum Sakor National Park, has led by example to combat the illegal wildlife trade and boost natural habitat conservation within a 180 sq km wildlife concession.

In the last year and a half, Cardamom Tented Camp has delivered conservation tourism experiences to international visitors, trained local staff and supplied vital income for forest rangers protecting wildlife and forest - hence the ecolodge's tagline, "Your Stay Keeps the Forest Standing."

The camp is the realisation of a unique partnership between two NGOs - Wildlife Alliance and the Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation (created by Minor Group) - and YAANA Ventures, an Asian responsible tourism partner and operator, which built and runs the lodge.

Due to the proactive relationship between the camp, Wildlife Alliance and the rangers, logging has stopped and the incidence of poaching has rapidly declined.

"We have created something truly unique in conservation tourism," says lodge manager, Allan Michaud, an ardent environmentalist and wildlife photographer. "We believe the model for the camp could be replicated in other forest environments to protect wildlife habitats and deliver great ecotourism experiences to guests."

By July 2019, 26 out of 29 reviews by tourists on TripAdvisor rated the camp as "excellent" - the highest category - giving it a 5.0 overall score.

The nine-unit tented camp, with restaurant pavilion, staff dormitory, ecotourism equipment and boat pier, uses solar power to run lodge amenities, including waste water filtration. It is constructed on a natural grassland opening adjacent to the Preak Tachan River, surrounded by mixed indigenous lowland forest and mangroves.

The camp offers a variety of packages which include activities such as hiking, kayaking, wildlife spotting, sleeping in tree tents, and Khmer cooking lessons.

The camp has recently added trips that include an overnight in the deep jungle in tentsile tree tents. These adventurous trips are available from November 2019.

Arranged by Wildlife Alliance, journalists and visitors to the camp have also witnessed the release of illegally captured species such as pangolins, monitor lizards, reticulated pythons, long tailed macaques, pig-tailed macaques, several species of tortoise, and a brown fish owl, all being released back to the wild in the forest near the camp.

Cardamom Tented Camp was one of 15 global finalists in the 2019 Tourism for Tomorrow Awards organised by the World Travel & Tourism Council.

###

Your Stay Keeps the Forest Standing: a 90-second introduction to PATA Gold Award winner, Cardamom Tented Camp (A range of camp photos are available at <https://cardamomtentedcamp.com/press/image-library/>)

#### About Cardamom Tented Camp

Cardamom Tented Camp is an ecolodge located in the Cardamom Mountains in Cambodia. Offering nine well-appointed safari-style tents, the lodge aims to minimize the human footprint on the natural world and serve as a role model in promoting sustainable ecotourism practices within both the national park and Cambodia as a whole.

Located on an 18,000-hectare (180 km<sup>2</sup>) concession, the lodge and its surroundings are home to pristine lowland and coastal habitats linking wildlife corridors to the Cardamom Mountains. Eco-friendly trekking and kayaking packages are available for adventure enthusiasts who are keen to be a part of real conservation work.

Cardamom Tented Camp is a three-way initiative between Minor Group, YAANA Ventures and Wildlife Alliance to ensure the land and its biodiversity does not fall into the hands of loggers, poachers and sand dredging operations.

#### Administrative Office of Cardamom Tented Camp

No. 25D, Street 294, Sangkat Tonle Bassac,  
Chamkarmorn, Phnom Penh,  
Cambodia

Tel: +855 966 410 783

Email: [sales@cardamomtentedcamp.com](mailto:sales@cardamomtentedcamp.com)

#### About Cardamom Tented Camp operator YAANA Ventures

YAANA Ventures is an owner, partner and operator of entrepreneurial travel and hospitality ventures in Asia. YAANA distinguishes itself by sharing real experiences that are grounded in the cultural richness of Asia. The company is the champion of the triple bottom-line. It empowers its ventures with the values to nurture the people with whom it works. Visit <https://yaana-ventures.com/>

YAANA Ventures  
33/2 Tiwanon Road Soi 28,  
Bangkasor, Muang, Nonthaburi 11000, Thailand  
Tel: (+66) 2 591 5420  
Email: [business@yaana-ventures.com](mailto:business@yaana-ventures.com)