

## Market Stall: Psar BKK

Second-hand clothes are the name of the game at *Psar BKK*, and while it may seem down at heel it's also one shopping spot where you are guaranteed to find something original. Words by Liz Ledden.

ALTHOUGH OFTEN DUBBED 'NGO Land' or the foreigner's quarter, Boeng Keng Kong's market is locally oriented. It is also the stuff of legend among residents – admittedly, mostly women – craving the flea markets and vintage vibe of favourite shopping haunts from home. Psar BKK is a thrift store junkie's paradise.

Aside from food – including some tasty Khmer snacks and food stalls – cosmetics and the usual plastic bits and pieces, the market focuses on second-hand clothing and accessories. Most seem to originate from other Asian countries stuck in either a time warp or a shipping crate for a couple

of decades en-route to Phnom Penh.

While many a polyester horror can be unearthed in the racks and rummage tables, there are some cool finds if you search thoroughly and patiently. Clothing, shoes, belts and handbags sit side-by-side, with '70s suede and strappy heels as well as bowling style bags among the finds. Some stalls sell newer items, such as Converse All Stars.

Come with plenty of time to spare, be prepared to get a bit dirty, and most of all, bring an eagle eye for spotting a retro gem amongst the junk.

**Boeng Keng Kong Market, Cnr. Street 57 & 380. 📍**



# Shopping Guide

ChildSafe®



A network protecting children from all forms of abuse. [www.childsafe-cambodia.org](http://www.childsafe-cambodia.org).

## Art

### Asasax Art Gallery

192 Street 178  
Tel: 012 217 795

Commercial art gallery featuring oil paintings based on Angkor reliefs by the artist Asasax. Open 9am to 8pm.

### Happy Painting Gallery

FCC; Cambodiana Hotel; Airport  
[www.happypainting.net](http://www.happypainting.net)

Open since 1995, these popular aircon art shops sell the extremely colourful and positive works of iconic artist Stef. Accepts all major credit cards. Open from 8am to 10pm.

## Books & CDs

### Bohr's Books

5 Sothearos Bvd. Tel: 012 929 148

Small bookshop with a good range of secondhand and copied books. Features predominantly fiction titles, from US\$3 to US\$6. Cheaper than similar set-ups in the city. Some copied bestsellers are only US\$3.

### Carnets d'Asie

French Cultural Centre (FCC)

218 Street 184  
Tel: 012 799 959

French-language bookshop that has sections on Cambodia and Asia as well as general fiction. Good range of French magazines and newspapers. Open from 8am to 8pm (closed Sundays and holidays).

### CD World

103 Sihanouk Boulevard

Shop with possibly the widest range of CDs, DVDs and software packages outside of the Russian Market. Open from 8am to 9pm.

### D's Books

12E Street 178 & 79 Street 240  
Tel: 092 675 629

Claiming to be Asia's number one choice for books, 'D' stocks over 20,000 copies. Most are second-hand (from US\$3.50), but some are originals (from US\$6). Heavy emphasis on best sellers, National Geographic past-issues and travel books. Open 9am to 9pm.

### Mekong Libris

12 Street 13 Tel: 023 722 751

French bookstore and souvenir centre located opposite the post office building. Has a range of books on Cambodia and the rest of Asia, and a selection of imported French magazines. A good range of postcards are also available, no doubt due to the shop's location.

### Monument Books

111 Norodom Boulevard  
Tel: 023 217 617

Most extensive range of first-hand English-language books in town including recent releases and sections on Asia, Cambodia, travel, cuisine, design and management. Good children's section as well as a wide choice of magazines and newspapers both on display and ready to order. Open from 7:30am to 7pm (7:30am to 5:30pm Monday).

### Open Book

41Eo Street 240

A welcoming reading room open to anyone to drop in, with a good range of children's books to peruse in English, French and Khmer. Apart from the library books, there's a range of illustrated children's books in multiple languages for sale, starting from under US\$1. You may need to ask a staff member for assistance, as the books for sale are locked in a cupboard.

## Crafts & Furniture

### Bazar Art de Vivre

28 Sihanouk Boulevard  
Tel: 012 776 492

Elegant furniture and home fittings shop that specialises in antique furniture, furnishings by Bloom Atelier and Cambodian silks. French-Vietnamese owner Mai also specialises in calligraphy and design. Open from 9am to 6pm (closed Sunday).

### Chez l'Artisan

42D Street 178  
Tel: 012 869 634

Quaint shop with high-quality wooden furniture and lampshades that also produces made-to-measure goods on request. Just make sure you don't trip over the dog on the way in. Open from 10am to 6pm.



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