

Note from *people and places*: this volunteer's placement was designed specifically for them – they went through our full matching process, as we've been doing with you. The placement report indicates their particular skills and experience – yours may be similar or completely different – your own placement will make best use of **your** experience and skills. Every volunteer is different – in what they give and what they gain. Reports from previous volunteers serve to give you as good a picture as possible about the project. If you have any questions about any of the detail in this report please do not hesitate to contact me at [dianne@travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk](mailto:dianne@travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk)

## Volunteer placement report Treak Cambodia

### Volunteer: Katie Smith

- what was your motivation for volunteering?

I felt that it was the right time to 'press pause' on the safe, comfortable life that I have at home and work with a disadvantaged community to challenge myself and lend a hand in a meaningful way.

- placement dates and project

January 24 2023 – February 21 2023

- pre departure preparation - were you happy with the information we shared with you during your preparation for this placement? what information did you consider most useful?

Yes. The colourful and thorough description of life at Treak Community Centre.

- orientation and preparation at the start of the placement

Both Michael and Salin provided me with a very good orientation at the start of my placement.

- your experience and work – including what resources you may have left behind and with whom – please attach copies of any written resources you may have left behind, and let us know of any others.

My work was focused on helping Salin set up a successful business for her and the other ladies, so that they could generate funds to support the running of the community centre.

- successes, disappointments and challenges of your placement

Successes – identifying Treak Creations' focus. Raising funds.

Failures – not being able to source authentic, locally produced fabric.

- what was the highlight of your volunteer experience?

Helping the business to develop and progress.

- would you recommend volunteering to other people or not? please tell us why

Yes. It's an incredibly challenging, life changing and fulfilling experience. You won't regret it!

- how did you spend your leisure time?

Touring all the sights and soaking up all the experiences that I could.

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- how was your accommodation?  
Our host couldn't have been nicer. She went out of her way to make us feel welcome and helped in any way that she could. My bedroom in the new block was ok. The bed was really comfortable. But we preferred to eat elsewhere.
- anything else you would like to share with future volunteers about your placement.  
You will love the people, the children and the culture. It is a huge culture shock initially, but everyone is so friendly and kind. You will soon feel entirely at home!



Working with Salin in the sewing room

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