

ប្រាសាទបាយ័ន

Bayon Temple

Late 12th Century

Jayavarman VII built many beautiful temple monuments during his reign. His state temple, Bayon, built at the center of his capital city, Angkor Thom, honored the Buddha. The temple's most dramatic features are the 37 towers carved with images of the king as the Bodhisattva of Pure Compassion, Lokeshvara, overlooking his kingdom in the four cardinal directions. However, the temple's greatest treasure may be the extensive bas reliefs on the outer galleries of the first level. These detailed carvings depict a wide variety of scenes from the royal court and ordinary daily life of the people. There are Khmer soldiers engaged in land and sea battles, local terrestrial and aquatic life, market scenes, gambling, musicians, jugglers, and food preparation.

