

JOURNEY ON THE MEKONG RIVER CRUISE

13 days / 12 nights

Saigon – Sa Dec – Chau Doc – Phnom Penh – Tonle River – Kratie – Siem Reap



Day 1/ Arrive Saigon

Arrive Saigon, meet our guide and transfer to hotel check in.

Day 2/ Saigon Now and Then (B,L)

In the morning, your day starts with a visit to the Jade Pagoda, Notre Dame Cathedral and the Municipal Post Office and the other remarkable buildings. You continue the drive a long a man-made canal that was an important water way to link Sai Gon and to the Mekong Delta 200 years past. We stop at typical market in China town. Lunch at local restaurant with local Saigonese style dishes. After lunch take time to enjoy authentic Vietnamese coffee arranged at an old colonial style building & garden. Return to hotel and free at leisure.

Day 3/ Saigon – My Tho – Embark RV Mekong Pandaw (B,L,D)

Morning, transfer to Intercontinental Hotel and check-in with Pandaw cruise. Transfer to the port by cruise's shuttle bus, embarking your Pandaw vessel in time for welcome drinks, a briefing and lunch. Sail across the vast Mekong Delta. Your guide will collect your passports at the meeting point so we can arrange the immigration formalities.

Day 4/ Sa Dec (B,L,D)

In the morning we visit Cai Be floating market along canals and backwaters and then continue to Sa Dec via Vinh Long Province. Sa Dec has an interesting local market and the ancient house of Mr. Huynh Thuy Le, the 'lover' of Marguerite Duras, a famous French novelist whose book was immortalised in the film L'Indochine.

Day 5/ Chau Doc (B,L,D)

Visit a Moslem Cham tribal village and a cat fish farm in Chau Doc with our guide or do your own thing and take one of our mountain bikes and explore the local market or the Catholic Church. Return to the ship by boat for lunch and cast off for the Cambodian border for the usual formalities.

Day 6/ Phnom Penh (B,L,D)

Whilst in Phnom Penh you will be provided with their own private cyclo. The Cyclo Centre Phnom Penh which provides the cyclos is a charity that provides basic welfare and medical services to cyclo drivers. You will visit the Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda and National Museum. Afternoon, optional excursion (by coach) to the Killing Fields and the Khmer Rouge's grim Tuol Sleng or S21 detention centre.



Day 7/ Tonle River (B,L,D)

Explorations up Tonle River to a silver making village, Kampong Trolach, and Chong Koh either by ship or by coach depending on water levels. This river is very pretty and there is a vibrant local life to be viewed along the river banks and in lesser craft.

Day 8/ Kratie (B,L,D)

Morning walk at Angkor Ban and after an all day sail through delightful Cambodian countryside we reach

charming French colonial town of Kratie in the evening. No other river ships get this high but thanks to the Mekong Pandaw's shallow draft we can attempt it.

Day 9/ The Dolphin Grounds (B,L,D)

From Kratie we go further upstream using a local bus to view the dolphin grounds in a national park protected area. In the afternoon on our return downstream we stop at a curious shrine known as the Monkey Temple on the way to moor overnight near Kampong Cham.

Day 10/ Siem Reap Disembarkation (B)

Early morning our guide pick up at the pier and transfer to your hotel in Siem Reap check in. The rest of day is free at leisure.



Day 11/ Siem Reap – Angkor Wat – Angkor Thom (B,L)

Early risers may have sunrise view at Angkor Wat. Back to hotel for breakfast.

After breakfast, visit the famous Angkor Wat, the world's largest temple with the longest intricately carved bas-relief panels. Explore this 3-tier pyramidal structure with massive galleries of thousand Buddha, interior walls and niches decorated with stone aspires (celestial dancers) and devatas (goddesses). Take a walk around the top terrace for a great view of Angkor. After lunch, visit Angkor Thom means the "Great City" in Khmer. The 12th-century royal Buddhist city especially famed for its grand Bayon temple. Including the South Gate, Bapoun, the Terrace of the Elephant, and the Terrace of the Leper King.

Day 12/ Siem Reap – Banteay Srei – Ta Prohm (B)

In the morning, we will drive to Banteay Srei, the Citadel of Women with its very attractive carvings, the Royal bathing place – Srah Srang, and the unique brick sculptures in Prasat Kravan. Then Ta Prohm – the 12th century temple that has been left largely un-restored and is in its natural state surrounded by jungle with massive Banyan roots and limbs enveloping the stone-like tentacles. Return back to Siem Reap visit Les Artisan D'Angkor and Siem Reap Market (if time permits). The evening is at leisure.

Day 13/ Departure (B)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home. Have a safe trip!

MEAL CODE B: BREAKFAST L: LUNCH D: DINNER

Tour cost included:

- Local English speaking
- Accommodations on Twin share with daily breakfast
- 7-night Mekong Pandaw Cruise with full board meals
- Meals (excluding drinks) as specified
- Sightseeing fee as specified, on a private basis
- Government tax and services charges
- Complimentary drinking water

Tour cost excluded:

- Visas
- Personal expenses
- Tips or gratuities
- Airfares
- Insurance and bank fee