

RIVER CRUISE

# *On the Mekong*

CAMBODIA / VIETNAM



  
**CroisiEurope**  
**Cruises**

— COLLECTION —



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## *From the Angkor temples to the Mekong Delta*

The Mekong River is an expansive waterway that has been a silent witness to thousands of years of history. Join CroisiEurope on a profound and fascinating journey on the "Mother of Rivers."

From buzzing metropolises to calm countrysides, sumptuous temples to infinite rice fields, floating villages to dazzling markets, this exceptional cruise will introduce you to amazing sites such as the Angkor Temples, Halong Bay, and the ancient imperial cities. Immerse yourself in age-old traditions and the delicious cuisine found in Vietnam and Cambodia.

The legendary Mekong is your guide on a timeless adventure highlighted by vivid blossoms, delicious fruit, enticing perfumes, lavish pagodas, and simple sampans—irreplaceable mementos that will last a lifetime.



# Your programme 11-DAY / 10-NIGHT

## DAY 1 | SIEM REAP (Cambodia)

Programme depends on time of arrival

Lunch

Excursion proposed:

- Visit the Beng Mealea temple
- Night spent at the hotel.

## DAY 2 | SIEM REAP • ANGKOR TEMPLES

Excursions proposed:

- Visit of Ta Prohm temple
- Tour of Angkor Thom including the Terrace of the Elephants and that of the Leper King
- Visit the Senteurs d'Angkor and silk workshops
- Dinner at a local restaurant and Phare Circus Show

Night spent at the hotel.

## DAY 3 | SIEM REAP • TONLE LAKE

Excursion proposed:

- The Angkor Wat temple

Boarding, introduction of the crew and welcome cocktail. Night spent on board.

## DAY 4 | KAMPONG CHHNANG KAMPONG TRALACH

Cruise through Tonle Lake

Excursion proposed:

- Visit of Kampong Chhnang and tasting of local products

Cruise towards Kampong Tralach.

## DAY 5 | KAMPONG TRALACH KOH CHEN • PHNOM PENH

Excursions proposed:

- The Wat Kampong Tralach Leu pagoda
- Tour of Koh Chen with villagers specialized in silver and copper smithing.

Cruise towards Phnom Penh

- Tuk-tuk ride through the city Apsara dance performance on board.

## DAY 6 | PHNOM PENH

Excursions proposed:

- The Royal Palace and its Silver Pagoda
- The National Museum
- Tuol Svay Prey S21, former detention centre

Free time at the local market.

## DAY 7 | CHAU DOC (Vietnam)

Cruise towards Chau Doc

Excursion proposed:

- Tay An pagoda and Ba Chua Xu temple
- Cruise towards Sa Dec.

## DAY 8 | SA DEC • VINH LONG CAI BE

Excursions proposed:

- The local market and Huynh Thuy Lê's former home in Sa Dec
- Cruise on Vinh Long
- Visit to a brickyard
- Discover a handcraft manufactory producing puffed rice, rice-paper wrappers and rice alcohol.

## DAY 9 | MY THO • HÔ-CHI-MINH CITY (formerly Saigon)

Excursion proposed:

- Visit to a honey bee farm with tastings of honey tea and exotic fruit
- Cruise through the beautiful Chao Gao Canal towards Ho-Chi-Minh City.



Tonle Lake





Angkor wat

## DAY 10 | HÔ-CHI-MINH CITY

Excursions proposed:

- Tour of Ho-Chi-Minh City: the Reunification Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral and the Central Post Office
  - Visit to the Museum of Vietnamese History
  - Tour of the Cu Chi Tunnels
- Farewell cocktail and dinner.

## DAY 11 | HÔ-CHI-MINH CITY

Disembark

Excursion proposed:

- Tour of Cholon, the local Chinatown
- Lunch in town before the end of our journey.

*Same itinerary available in the opposite direction.*

Alcohol can be dangerous to your health. Please drink in moderation.

## Crossing through the Chao Gao canal



Chao Gao canal

CroisiEurope is the only river cruise company authorized to cross through the Chao Gao Canal, the tree- and temple-lined channel that links Ho-Chi-Minh City to the Mekong Delta. Stretching over 28 km (17 miles), the canal is a vibrant conduit for cargo ships, barges, and skiffs brimming with rice, fruit, fish, sand, or fuel.

The sights and sounds of everyday life burst from the infinite parade of activity in the water and on the shores. Our ship's crossing is a rare glimpse of authentic Vietnam as it is today.





## *Extension possibilities*

**4-DAY / 3-NIGHT  
PRE OR POST-PROGRAMME**

### HANOI AND HALONG BAY

**ALL EXCURSIONS INCLUDED:**

- Discover Hanoi, the historic heart of the nation
- Tuk-tuk ride through the "36 streets" of the Old Quarters
- Cruise across Halong Bay with its breathtaking scenery
- Vietnamese cooking class

**7-DAY / 6-NIGHT  
PRE OR POST-PROGRAMME**

### THE IMPERIAL CITIES, HANOI AND HALONG BAY

**ALL EXCURSIONS INCLUDED:**

- Cruise on Halong Bay, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- In Hanoi, Ho-Chi-Minh's stilt house and mausoleum
- The fortified Imperial City in Hue
- The My Son temples





# *Welcome aboard!*

Along the legendary Mekong River, each instant on this cruise is exceptional. Elegant and intimate, our ships provide the harmony and comfort needed to take full advantage of what the river and scenery have to offer.





# RV INDOCHINE II

PREMIUM SHIP • 31 CABINS

The RV Indochine II is an intimate-sized Premium ship with spacious, comfortable and bright cabins, spread out over three decks.

All cabins have a private balcony, offering amenities and providing guests with all the comforts they need during their stay. A massage room and a swimming pool on the sun deck, allow to relax and admire the landscapes.

The ship perfectly combines colonial and contemporary influences, charm and comfort, elegance and refinement.





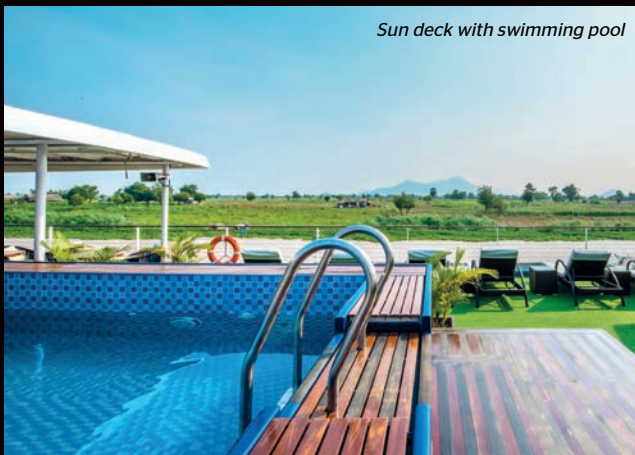
Built in	2017
Length	65 m (213 ft)
Width	13 m (43 ft)
Cabins	Upper deck: 23 cabins (18 m <sup>2</sup> / 194 ft <sup>2</sup> ) Main deck: 8 cabins (18 m <sup>2</sup> / 194 ft <sup>2</sup> ) All cabins face outwards and have a private balcony. Each cabin has two beds which can be pushed together, designed with large storage spaces, a bathroom with sink, shower and private toilets, air conditioning, safe, hairdryer, dressing table, bathrobes, TV and Wi-Fi. 4 cabins have in addition a mini terrace of 4 m <sup>2</sup> (43 ft <sup>2</sup> ).
Services	A restaurant, a large lounge bar, a sun deck with swimming pool and bar, laundry service and a massage room.
Activities	Conferences and round table, film projection, books and board games.



Restaurant



Cabin



Sun deck with swimming pool





# RV INDOCHINE

STANDARD SHIP • 24 CABINS

The RV Indochine is a colonial style and intimate-sized standard ship. It welcomes its passengers in 24 cabins spread over three decks. Each cabin offers amenities and provides guests with all the comforts they need during their stay.

Totally decked out in alluring teak, the RV Indochine offers a combination of charme and comfort.

The restaurant, located on the upper deck, offers a delicate cuisine in a refined setting where large picture windows allow to fully enjoy the surrounding environment.





Built in	2008
Length	51 m (167 ft)
Width	11 m (36 ft)
Cabins	Upper deck: 10 cabins (16 m <sup>2</sup> / 172 ft <sup>2</sup> ) Main deck: 14 cabins (16 m <sup>2</sup> / 172 ft <sup>2</sup> ) All cabins have wide windows and overlook the exterior gangway. They are equipped with two beds that can be pushed together, designed with large storage spaces, a bathroom with sink, shower and private toilets, air conditioning, safe, hair dryer, dressing table, bathrobes, Wi-Fi.
Services	A panoramic restaurant of 90 m <sup>2</sup> (969 ft <sup>2</sup> ), a large lounge, a bar, a sun deck 250 m <sup>2</sup> (2691 ft <sup>2</sup> ), laundry service.
Activities	Conferences and round table, film projection, books and board games.



Cabin



Restaurant



Lounge



Sun deck with covered terrace





# RV LAN DIEP

STANDARD SHIP • 22 CABINS

The RV Lan Diep elegantly crosses the Mekong river. Inspired by the Mekong's ancient tradition of riverboat building, it perfectly blends into the green and authentic scenery along the river.

Its hull, covered with exotic wood of ancient style, gives it a refined look.

On board, enjoy all the amenities and spaces offering comfort and serenity to make your cruise unforgettable.

Built in	2007
Length	50 m (164 ft)
Width	10 m (33 ft)
Cabins	Upper deck: 10 cabins (15 m <sup>2</sup> / 175 ft <sup>2</sup> ) Lower deck: 12 cabins (15 m <sup>2</sup> / 175 ft <sup>2</sup> ) All cabins have large windows giving a clear view of the river. They are spacious and comfortable equipped with two beds that can be separated, closet space and under-bed storage, a private bathroom including shower and bath products, bathrobes, air-conditioning, safe, hairdryer, Wi-Fi.
Services	A restaurant, a lounge bar, a sun deck, shop, laundry service (Phnom Penh).
Activities	Lectures, library with classic literature.



Restaurant



Sun deck



Cabin





## RV TOUM TIOU II

STANDARD SHIP • 14 CABINS

The RV Toum Tiou II offers an unmatched cruising experience of the Mekong with spectacular views of its fauna and flora and opportunities to observe day-to-day life of the people of Cambodia and Vietnam in close proximity.

Larger than its sister ship, the RV Toum Tiou II offers a higher level of comfort on board: cabin equipment, private lounge area...

Built in	2008
Length	38 m (125 ft)
Width	8 m (26 ft)
Cabins	Upper deck: 6 cabins (11 m <sup>2</sup> /120 ft <sup>2</sup> ) Lower deck: 8 cabins (11 m <sup>2</sup> /120 ft <sup>2</sup> ) All cabins have panoramic windows with a clear view of the river. They are equipped with two beds that can be separated, closet space and under-bed storage, private bathroom with shower and bath products and bathrobes, hairdryer, air-conditioning, safe, Wi-Fi.
Services	A restaurant, a sun deck with bar, shop, laundry service (Phnom Penh)
Activities	Lectures, library with classic literature.



## RV TOUM TIOU I

STANDARD SHIP • 10 CABINS

Due to its size, the RV Toum Tiou I can access the most remote areas of the river, and offers its passengers priceless views of people, flora and fauna, barely touched by modernity.

This ship with an intimate atmosphere has double cabins and all the amenities that will make the cruises on board unique.

Built in	2002
Length	38 m (125 ft)
Width	7 m (23 ft)
Cabins	Upper deck: 6 cabins (approx. 10 m <sup>2</sup> /110 ft <sup>2</sup> ) Lower deck: 4 cabins (approx. 11 m <sup>2</sup> /120 ft <sup>2</sup> ) All cabins have large panoramic windows giving a clear view of the river. Each cabin is equipped with two beds that can be separated, closet space and under-bed storage, private bathroom including shower and bath products, bathrobes, air-conditioning, safe, hairdryer, Wi-Fi.
Services	A restaurant, a sun deck with bar, shop, laundry service (Phnom Penh).
Activities	Lectures, library with classic literature.



# History by country



Hô-Chi-Minh City

## Hô-Chi-Minh City (formerly Saigon)

District 1 is the place to be if you want to travel back in time to when the city was heavily influenced by the French during the colonization of the country. The Reunification Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral, and Saigon Central Post Office are all splendid testimonies to what the French call "The Pearl of the Far East."

Our ships dock in the heart of Ho-Chi-Minh City, the financial core of the country.

The Chinese District, Cholon, where nearly half the population lives, is teeming with life and vibrant marketplaces. Yet, a quick step inside one of the grand temples brings a sudden sensation of peace and serenity.

Notre Dame cathedral of Saigon





## Sa Dec

Sa Dec, or the Garden of CochinChina, was where Marguerite Duras experienced her tumultuous, forbidden affair as a French-colonial teenager with a Chinese man eight years her senior. Her acclaimed novel *The Lover*, recounting the experience, was made into a film in 1992.

The former house of Huynh Thuy Lê, the man whom Marguerite Duras based her book on, is now a famous tourist spot. We'll return to the ship by walking through a local market, packed with dozens of vendors selling a variety of goods.



House of Huynh Thuy Lê

*“ So it’s during the crossing of a branch of the Mekong, on the ferry that shuttles between Vinh Long and Sa Dec in the vast plain of mud and rice in southern CochinChina. The Plain of the Birds. I get off the bus and go to the railing. I watch the river. My mother tells me that never in my entire life will I see rivers as beautiful as these, as wide, as wild as the Mekong and its branches ebbing toward the sea, its waters rushing into oblivion, into the vacuum of the ocean, from the foreground to the vanishing point, pouring, gushing, as if the earth was tipped vertical. ”*

*From Barbara Bray’s English translation of *The Lover* by Marguerite Duras*



Phnom Penh, Royal Palace



## Phnom Penh

Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, is a buzzing, modern metropolis that remains entrenched in a certain colonial nostalgia. Its main sites include the sumptuous Royal Palace complex—the apex of Khmer art—and the National Museum, which houses magnificent collections in its Museum of Fine Arts.

The Central Market, a bright yellow Art Deco landmark, is packed with treasures and souvenirs and is surrounded by the hustle and bustle of a city on the perpetual go.

## The temples of Angkor

Twisted like sleeping serpents, the temples of Angkor are a source of national pride for a country trying to rebuild itself. The complex is huge, and history has deemed it to be the most impressive advanced city in the world during its time. This former epicenter of the powerful Khmer empire between 802 and 1431 has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There are over 1,000 temples in the complex, including the prized Angkor Wat; the Bayon Temple, best known for its 216 smiling faces; the Elephant Terrace, a former viewing stand during public ceremonies; Ta Prohm, one of the most stunning and popular temples in the complex.

## Angkor Wat

The Angkor Wat temple, which lends its name to the entire complex, is itself one of the largest religious sites ever built. Constructed between 1113 and 1150, it was originally a Hindu temple dedicated to Vishnu that was later converted into a Buddhist temple.

Angkor Wat is surrounded by a large moat that helps protect it and stabilize the foundation. The main entrance is lined with statues of guardian lions. The heart of the temple is the central tower, surrounded by four smaller towers and a series of walls. One of the reasons for the temple's fame are the intricate bas-relief friezes integrated into its architecture. The site has sustained significant damage from overgrowth, earthquakes, and war, but remains an important source of national pride for the country and a focus of ongoing restoration efforts.











*Hué, imperial city*

**POPULATION :** approximately 98 million.  
**AREA:** 127,890 sq. mi. (331 000 km<sup>2</sup>).  
**CAPITAL:** HANOI.

**LANGUAGES:** The official language is Vietnamese. Many dialects are spoken. English is popular among the educated and in tourist areas. Vietnamese has its own set of characters that have been historically influenced by a variety of Asian languages, especially Chinese. Since a large number of minority groups exist that speak a variety of languages and dialects, a number of sign languages have developed in the cities. When it was a colony, French used to be the principal language in education, administration, and commerce, and within a certain generation, it is still spoken. Nevertheless, English has taken the forefront in the hotels.

**GOVERNMENT:** One-party socialist state.

## CLIMATE

Overall, Vietnam has a hot and humid climate from north to south, although there can be large variances according to altitudes. The "green season" is from May to September when temperatures vary from 27°C / 80°F to 35°C / 95°F and sometimes up to 40°C / 104°F. When traveling through the south, we recommend light clothes: T-shirts, cotton shirts, and lightweight, cotton pants. You'll want a sweater or two and a windbreaker when you're on the ship and for the extended trips between November and March. In the north, we recommend warmer clothes between

December and March. It can become cold in Hanoi and on Halong Bay.

## CURRENCY

The national currency is the Vietnamese dong. It comes in 1,000; 2,000; 10,000; 20,000; 50,000; 100,000; 200,000; and 500,000 bills. Coins are rare. The most used foreign currency is the US dollar. The euro is accepted in some establishments. As a general rule, most items can be purchased using US dollars. Credit and debit cards are not widely accepted. Visa cards are usually accepted in the larger hotels and stores. A 4% tax is charged for any card purchases.

## CUSTOMS

You can bring a maximum of 1.5 liters of alcohol and 400 cigarettes with you into the country. **PLEASE NOTE:** When entering the country with over \$5000 in cash (or its foreign equivalent), you must declare this to the authorities. For accurate, up-to-date information on customs regulations, please visit <https://www.vietnam-online.com/visa/customs-regulations> or contact your local Vietnamese embassy.

## CUISINE

Food in Vietnam is fine, light, spicy, and varied. Southern foods tend to be sweeter than in the north, with coconut milk added when cooking. The central areas of the country use an enormous amount of seafood. The Vietnamese eat with chopsticks. There are three types of rice: normal, sticky, and aromatic. Rice is served as

a side or main dish (with ginger, mushrooms, etc.). As in most Asian cultures, it is a staple that has contributed to the country's existence. A well-known proverb states: The educated man precedes the farmer. But when the rice begins to run short, it's the farmer who comes first. For additional flavor to their cooking, fish sauce is found on almost every table. The country seems to overflow with fish and shellfish. Chicken, duck, squab, pork, and buffalo are the main selection of meats. Beef and lamb are rare. One of the most basic meals is pho, a delicious soup of broth, noodles, herbs, and meat. During your tasting adventures, please only drink bottled water that you open yourself. Tap water, even in the cities, is not drinkable. Tea is the national drink and is often free or very cheap in restaurants. The most popular is green tea served in porcelain cups. Vietnamese coffee is very strong. Beer is the most popular alcoholic drink, with Saigon, Tiger, and 333 as the most well-known brands.

## POPULATION

The Viet ethnic group makes up over 85% of the country's current population. They have significant political and economic influence over the country and live mainly in the coastal plains or large cities. Vietnam is also home to many other ethnic minorities, who tend to dwell in the highlands. Hanoi is the administrative capital, but Ho-Chi-Minh City is the real economic and commercial hub. In the former Annam region, Hue has been the country's intellectual and artistic center since the Nguyen Dynasty.

## PURCHASES

Ho-Chi-Minh-City has a magnificent choice of painting, sculptures, pottery, stamps, and traditional crafts. Embroidered goods and antiques can be found mostly in Hanoi. Pay particular attention to fraud when shopping for antiques, and be aware that it is illegal to export real antiques from Vietnam without a permit. Permits can be obtained in Ho-Chi-Minh City at the Customs Office. For more information, consult the official website of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Vietnam. Also check with your country's customs regulations when bringing gifts and items back home. Like most countries, and especially in larger cities, pick-pockets can be rampant.



● ANGKOR

● PHNOM PENH



# CAMBODIA



Angkor Thom

**OFFICIAL NAME:** Kingdom of Cambodia.

**AREA:** 69,898 sq. mi. (181,035 km<sup>2</sup>).

**CAPITAL:** Phnom Penh.

**POPULATION:** Approximately 17 million. Over 95% of the population are ethnic Khmers, who speak the official language. Minority groups include Chams, Vietnamese, and Chinese (each under 2%).

**GOVERNMENT:** Elective constitutional monarchy.

**KING:** Norodom Sihamoni.

**LANGUAGES:** Khmer is the official language. The Khmer script is used to write the language. Street signs are now in Khmer and English.

## CLIMATE

Cambodia is located in a tropical zone and benefits from exceptional sunlight all year round. The average temperature is about 27°C / 80°F with the lowest temperature at 17°C / 62°F. There are two seasons: the green season and the dry season. The green season is from May to October. Intense, brief storms tend to occur at the end of the afternoons, but never last long. The temperatures vary from 27°C / 80°F to 35°C / 95°F and sometimes up to 40°C / 104°F. The dry season is from October to April.

## CURRENCY

Although the official currency is the Cambodian riel, US dollars in good condition are accepted almost everywhere. Be careful though, because dirty or ripped bills are often refused. Carry small denominations with you

(\$1, \$5, \$10 and/or \$20 bills). Please note that most of the Cambodian businesses do not accept US dollars issued before the year 2000. Make sure to mention this to your personal banker when ordering the change (the issuing date is written on each banknote). Credit and debit cards are not widely accepted, except in international hotels and souvenir shops. Traveler's Checks are hard to cash.

## CUSTOMS

You can bring up to two liters of wine, 400 cigarettes, and 350 ml of perfume with you into the country. You can bring up to \$10,000 with you in cash without declaring it on arrival. Check with your country's customs regulations when bringing gifts and items back home.

## PURCHASES

Common souvenirs include gemstones (be very careful about fakes!), gold jewelry, silver and bronze objects, handmade silk fabrics, and local crafts (baskets, wooden and stone sculptures). Haggling prices is expected. Be very careful about buying counterfeit items (clothes, shoes, perfumes), since your country's customs regulations might prohibit their entry on your return.

## CUISINE

Rice and fish are used in most of the traditional dishes. Meals are usually composed of soups, sautéed vegetables, and grilled meats. Dishes are usually enhanced with curry, lemongrass, mint and flavorful herbs, and world-famous

Kampot pepper. Coconut milk is used abundantly, as is prahok, a salted and fermented fish paste. Chinese and Vietnamese cooking is also available in Cambodia.

## POPULATION

The largest population in Cambodia is the Khmer, who are indigenous to the lowland regions. The minority populations include the Khmer Loeu, Chinese, and Vietnamese. Although the Khmer people originated in Cambodia, there are now significant populations in Thailand and Vietnam. The Khmer were part of the Indianized Kingdoms and benefited immensely from the economic and cultural diversity found along the East Asian maritime trade route. Historically, the Khmers live primarily as rice growers. The Chinese-Cambodians constitute a majority of the commercial middle class. They also have a strong presence in Cambodia's political scene. The Cham communities in Cambodia are largely Muslim, and most earn their livelihood from fishing. They are the descendants of the Kingdom of Champa. The Khmer Loeu is the collective name for various ethnic groups residing in the highlands of the country. They live in scattered villages with only a few hundred inhabitants each. The villages are usually governed by elders or a village head. They cultivate a wild variety of plants, but the main crop is rice. The Vietnamese community is traditionally involved in fishing. They are located along the banks of the Mekong and Tonle Sap lake. In cities, the Vietnamese are mostly craftspeople.





COLLECTION

 CROISIEUROPE HEADQUARTERS

Tel. +33 3 8876 2199

[www.croisieurope.travel](http://www.croisieurope.travel)

 NEW YORK OFFICE

Tel. +1 800 768 7232

[www.croisieurope.rivercruises.com](http://www.croisieurope.rivercruises.com)

 LONDON OFFICE

Tel. +44 (0)208 3 281 281

[www.croisieurope.co.uk](http://www.croisieurope.co.uk)

 PHNOM PENH OFFICE

Tel. +855 (0)23 216 070

[asiaoffice@croisieurope.com](mailto:asiaoffice@croisieurope.com)