

SAIGON TO SIEM REAP

Boat & Bike program

9 DAYS/8 NIGHTS

Day 1: HO CHI MINH CITY (Saigon)

Meet at the Hotel in Saigon between 12.30pm and 1:30 pm. (hotel address to be provided).

Transfer to local restaurant for lunch. After lunch, we'll explore the **local Chinatown** and experience the daily life of the people. We'll also visit the **Giac Lam Pagoda**, which is over 300 years old and is the oldest pagoda in Ho Chi Minh City. Lastly, we'll visit the **Flower Market and Binh Tay market** for a 15-minute walking tour to explore how locals buy and sell local food and products.

Transfer to the ship.

After comfortably settling into your cabins, we'll introduce our crew at a welcome cocktail, have dinner and spend the night on board downtown.

Day 2: HO CHI MINH CITY (Saigon)

Enjoy a tasty breakfast onboard before our Ho Chi Minh tour. Take a short downtown drive to the city. Walking tour commences and stop for some photographs at notable sites like **Reunification Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral, Municipal Post Office, City Square and the Opera house** all of which were heavily influenced by French colonialism in the 19th century. Enjoy the vibrancy of this city by foot and explore the city's green space enjoying the beauty of nature in the middle of this dynamic city. Experience the local coffee scene – Vietnam is famous for producing high-quality coffee and coffee shops are a common sight in the downtown.

Transfer back to ship for lunch.

After lunch we'll then proceed to the **War Museum** to learn more about the history of Vietnam before returning to the ship.

Ship leaves Saigon for My Tho and dinner on board.

Night on board.

Day 3: MY THO - CAI BE

Breakfast on board and cruise the magnificent **Chao Gao canal**, where you will experience the lively and vibrant canal full of ships activity, yet still feel close to the life on shore. A must-see part of the cruise and that we're the only cruise line offering this unique passage. Arrival in My Tho.

09:00 Upon disembarking from TT2, you will board a sampan and transfer to a local ferry station. Here, you will meet your cycling team who will accompany you for the next three exciting days of cycling in the Mekong Delta. Your cycling journey will begin on small countryside paths, passing by rambutan and star apple farms. This scenic route will allow you to immerse yourself in the rural surroundings and witness the agricultural activities of the region. Along the way, you will

encounter local ferries, providing an opportunity to engage in conversations with the local villagers. This will give you insights into their way of life and the unique aspects of their communities.

Your cycling route will lead you through the lush greenery of the Mekong Delta, passing by sapodilla gardens and chicken farms. This will offer you a diverse and picturesque experience as you traverse the region.

You will enjoy a delicious lunch at a simple, authentic local restaurant. The meal will feature Mekong Delta cuisine, allowing you to savor the flavors and specialties of the region. After lunch, you will continue your cycling journey and take local ferries to Tan Phong island. Along the way, you will pass through durian gardens and eventually arrive at Cai Be handicraft workshops, where traditional coconut candy, pop-rices, and other local products are made. To conclude today's cycling adventure, you will board a sampan that will take you back to the ship. The estimated arrival time is around 04:00 PM

Cycling distance: 25KM

Ship leaves Cai Be for Sa Dec. Dinner during cruising and night on board.

Day 4: SA DEC – CAO LANH – CHAU DOC

Breakfast on board.

07:30 Upon disembarking from ship, you will begin your cycling adventure in Sa Dec town. You will make a circle ride through the ancient quarters of Sa Dec, allowing you to explore and appreciate the historical charm of the area. From Sa Dec town, you will cycle to Sa Dec flower village, which is known as the largest village in the Mekong Delta specialized in flowers and bonsai gardens. Here, you will have the opportunity to visit the village and admire the vibrant colors and beauty of the flower and bonsai displays. Sa Dec Flower Market is the main provider of flower and bonsais for the South of Vietnam.

After exploring the flower village, your cycling route will take you through picturesque rice fields and mango plantations. This will provide you with a scenic and serene experience as you pedal through the countryside.

After the cycling tour, you will visit Phuong Nam Cultural Park. This cultural park offers insights into the traditions, customs, and heritage of the Mekong Delta region. It will provide you with a deeper understanding of the local culture and way of life. Around 13:00, you will board your sampan and back to TT2 in Cao Lanh to enjoy your lunch on board. This will be a relaxing and satisfying meal, allowing you to replenish your energy after the cycling adventure.

Overall, this cycling tour today will take you through the ancient quarters of Sa Dec, the vibrant flower village, picturesque rice fields, mango plantations, and cultural sites. It will provide you with a blend of natural beauty, cultural exploration, and the opportunity to engage with the local way of life.

Cycling distance: 25-30KM

Dinner and night on board.

Day 5: CHAU DOC - PHNOM PENH

Breakfast on board.

07:30 Disembark from the ship to Chau Gianh boat landing, you will embark on a cycling tour through the villages of Chau Doc's Islam community. This will provide you with an opportunity to explore the local culture and surroundings. Your cycling route will take you to Masjid Jamiul Azhar, a unique mosque in Vietnam. You will have a chance to visit and learn more about this special place of worship and about the Islam Community in Vietnam.

After visiting the mosque, you will continue your cycling journey through the largest rice fields in the Mekong Delta region. This will offer you a scenic experience and a chance to witness the agricultural practices of the area.

You will reach My A Silk, where you will have the opportunity to learn about the production of special silk dyed from "nua tree." This will give you insights into the traditional silk-making process and the local craftsmanship.

After completing the cycling portion of your journey, you will bid farewell to your cycling team in Vietnam before boarding your sampan back to TT2

Cycling distance: 40KM

Back to the ship for lunch and depart to Vinh Xuong Border.

Arrive at Vinh Xuong Border – Clearance of the entry formalities then Ship leaves to Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Arrival in the late evening in Phnom Penh. Dinner on board. We'll remain at anchor overnight. Night on board

Day 6: PHNOM PENH

Breakfast on board.

We'll enjoy a tour of the fabulous **Royal Palace**, one of the most impressive examples of Cambodian architecture, and its **Silver Pagoda**. Onward to visit the **National Museum**.

Enjoy an afternoon tour of the area by "tuk-tuk," for an authentic and immersive experience like no other. Visit the beautifully renovated Art Deco Central Market and experience the local shopping scene firsthand. Known as '**Phsar Thmei**' locally the market is a bustling hub for clothing, food and souvenir shopping.

After exploring the market, we will stroll through the city's off-the-beaten-path alleyways, where you'll have a chance to engage with the locals and see how they live their daily lives in the city. Observe and experience the locals enjoying their coffee while playing Cambodian-style chess and see the local food in its most authentic form, learning about the way of live in this vibrant city.

Continue your visit to the city's namesake, **Wat Phnom**. Founded in 1373, the pagoda was built to house Buddhist relics washed ashore by the river. From there, we will enjoy a short walk to the **French Quarter**, where you'll get a glimpse of the city's colonial era while admiring the beautiful architecture. The area boasts a number of Belle Époque and Art Deco houses and public buildings dating from the French Protectorate (1863-1953).

As we get back on board, we will enjoy an Apsara dance show. Dinner and overnight on board, in the port of Phnom Penh. Free evening.

Day 7: UDONG - KAMPONG TRALACH

7:00 Breakfast on board

08:00 Departure by bike to visit **Udong**, Cambodia's former capital. On arrival, first we visit the colorful **Vipassana Dhura Buddhist Meditation Center** where you will hear about the school of Vipassana or Insight Meditation. After that walk up the steps to the various temples and the three large stupas where the ashes of three former kings are preserved. You will be rewarded by wonderful views of the plains below.

Continue biking to Wat Kampong Tralach following the lovely village along the river bank. Visit the beautiful Vihara at the **Wat Kampong Tralach** Leu pagoda.

Cycling distance: 25KM

Lunch on board.

Set sail to **Kampong Chhnang** and dinner and night on board.

Day 8: KAMPONG CHHNANG – KOH CHEN

07:00 Breakfast on board

08:00 Morning excursion transfer by small boat to the bike station then start riding along the market that the people selling along the street. Then following on the river bank with a very nice view of the farming then visiting the local village still produce pottery using traditional methods, unchanged in style for centuries, which is produce in sufficient quantities to supply the entire country. Then continue cycling to visit the local collect sugar from the Thot Not tree. The Thol Not Tree (Sugar Palm Tree) then we get back on the boat at 12:00

Cycling distance: 20KM

Lunch on board whilst cruising to Koh Chen.

We'll have a farewell dinner and spend the night on board.

Day 9: SIEM REAP

Breakfast on board. After breakfast, passengers will be transferred by air-conditioned coach from Koh Chen to Siem Reap (5-6 hours bus ride). Drop off at the meeting point. End of our journey. **Please do not book your flight before 3:00 p.m.**

Disclaimer: Please email us for a precise itinerary as programs differ from ship to ship.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The itinerary, ports of call and visits are subject to modification by the ship owner and/or our representatives on the spot. The excursions may be amended or completed in the reverse order if it is deemed necessary. The ship's captain reserves the right to modify the cruising itinerary to ensure the safe navigation of the vessel.

The banks of the river on which we travel can be very steep and slippery, depending on the water levels.

HEALTH FORMALITIES

There are no compulsory vaccinations for this destination. However, it is strongly recommended that you ensure that your inoculations for the following diseases are up-to-date: Tetanus, Polio, Hepatitis A and B, Diphtheria and Typhoid. It is not recommended that you drink tap water, and prefer to drink bottled mineral water only (watch the seal being broken before accepting the bottle) and tea. It is important that you bring with you any of your usual medication (aspirin, anti-diarrhea tablets, etc.). Mosquito repellent is strongly recommended. This type of tour/cruise is not recommended for passengers with limited mobility.

CLIMATE

The dry season lasts from December to April, but the atmosphere remains humid (25°C to 30°C). During the rainy season which runs from May to November, there are frequent violent but short rainstorms which usually occur towards the end of the afternoon. The best season is from November to March

CURRENCY

The currency aboard the Toum Tiou 2 ship is in US dollar (preferably in small denominations outside for local markets/shops). You will be able to pay by Us Dollars or Credit card (Visa or MasterCard).

CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM VISA

Cambodia E-VISA and ordinary Tourist VISA

Passengers joining the Mekong Cruise from Vietnam to Cambodia (Saigon to Siem Reap), please kindly be reminded that the Cambodia E-VISA (electronic visa/online visa) is still not accepted at the waterway/river border, however, they are accepted at the airport and some land borders.

The visa that is accepted at the waterway/river border is the ordinary Cambodia Tourist visa, it is valid for one (1) month with single entry and can be obtained at the Cambodian border and upon arrival in Phnom Penh. The guests can also apply for this type of visa in advance at the nearest Cambodian embassy in their own country. Two (2) passport size photos (2x2) are required to apply for the visa. Visa cost is \$35 USD per person (subject to change).

Passengers joining the Mekong Cruise from Cambodia to Vietnam (Siem Reap to Saigon), Cambodia visa on arrival is available at the airport.

Vietnam Visa

Passengers joining the Mekong Cruise from Cambodia to Vietnam (Siem Reap to Saigon), please be reminded to put the right date when the ship crosses the border as well as the right border gate name or port of entry in Vietnam when applying for Vietnam visa, the official border name is Song Tien Landport Checkpoint. We would like to suggest that passengers put the entry date on their Vietnam visa one (1) day before the ship crosses the border. Please thoroughly review the program that is sent to you once you've made your bookings with us. Furthermore, please do not hesitate to contact us if you are unsure of the day the ship crosses the border.

Passengers joining the Mekong Cruise from Vietnam to Cambodia (Saigon to Siem Reap), please apply for your Vietnam visa in advance at the Vietnam embassy in their own country or get an e-visa online. Some countries do not need a visa for short stays in Vietnam as they have a Visa Exemption, the list of countries and maximum duration of stay can be found online.

