

SAIGON TO SIEM REAP

Discovery 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.

Option:

Optional vespa tour (book 24 hours before)

Program: Saigon After Dark

Saigon After Dark is a part night excursion, part street/local food adventure. Guests experience the nightlife of Saigon the way locals do, all from the back of a vintage Vespa scooter.

Tour itinerary:

- 1. Stop for a cocktail and appetizer at a rooftop lounge before adventuring into your favorite local eating spot.*
- 2. Enjoy street seafood with cold drinks at a local restaurant*
- 3. Stop at a Vietnamese pancake restaurant - Banh Xeo, a specialty of Saigon and southern food with the locals.*
- 4. After this the tour will bring you to a live music venue to enjoy the drinks with live music.*

Moving from stop to stop, you will enjoy the nightlife of this hustle and bustle city as well as see the iconic sights along the way.

Tour Runs Daily - 6:00pm-10:00pm | Tour Duration - 4 hours | 120 USD/ pax

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.

In My Tho we will kick off with a local boat pick-up that will take us on a boat cruise to **Thoi Son Island** where we will have the opportunity to explore the daily lives of the local people and enjoy seasonal fruits. We will also take a **Sampan ride** along the scenic canals for a closer look at the Mekong Delta and its unique features. Later we'll go biking on our own and explore the village to see firsthand how the local people live and to admire the magnificent fruit orchards in the area. This is the perfect chance to connect with the locals and witness their way of life.

Back to ship. Ship leaves for **Cai Be** and we'll enjoy lunch whilst cruising. Arrival at Cai Be.

Start Cai Be with a local boat trip to cruise along the Mekong River. Disembark to visit the **craft village** where you can witness how the local products are made.

Continue cruising on the boat. Get off at the fruit orchards comprising of many kinds of fruits such as: jack-fruit, durian, guava, rambutan, longan etc... drink hot tea, eat fresh fruits and enjoy a live local music performance.

We'll then enjoy a **kayaking** adventure. Don't worry if you are a first-time paddler, it is not difficult. This is a unique experience in the Mekong Delta providing a unique aquatic perspective of the surrounding natural beauty. Then there is the opportunity to explore the countryside by mountain bike providing another view of the local scenery. Whichever of the activities you do, you will get a distinctive glimpse into the beauty and authenticity of the Mekong River.

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

Day 4: SA DEC

Breakfast on board

Local boat pick-up for a short panoramic tour of Sa Dec, including a visit to the **Trung Vuong primary school** (will close on Saturday, Sunday, holiday and New Year) where you'll get a chance to learn more about the local education system. Afterward, we will enjoy a promenade at **Sa Dec market** on the riverbank. (Local market will be closed on Lunar New Year) where you can experience local commerce. This is a perfect opportunity to immerse yourself in the local culture and enjoy the charming river surroundings.

Ship leaves Sa Dec for Chau Doc, lunch and dinner on board during cruising.

Day 5: CHAU DOC - PHNOM PENH

Breakfast on board.

Our friendly Vietnamese guide and comfortable van will be awaiting passengers at the pier, ready to take you on a tour to **Van Rau Ancient Pagoda** for an incredible cultural experience.

We'll then transfer to **Tra Su Forest**. We'll experience this beautiful forest with a motorboat and rowing boat tour, where you can witness this incredible and diverse flora and fauna of this stunning natural environment.

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

Breakfast on board

The ship then departs to **Udong**, Cambodia's former capital. We'll dock at Koh Chen and transfer by van to Udong. 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.

After returning on board, start cruising towards **Kampong Tralach**. Lunch on board.

We will visit the beautiful Vihara at the **Wat Kampong Tralach** Leu pagoda. To access the pagoda, we need to cross the village of Kampong Tralach in ox carts, moving along a small road that runs perpendicular to the river in the middle of magnificent rice fields. We then offer clients the choice to either return to the ship by oxcart or enjoy a mountain biking experience through the stunning countryside to witness the beauty of the rice fields surrounding the area before returning to the ship.

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

Day 8: KAMPONG CHHNANG – KOH CHEN

Breakfast on board

Visit **Kampong Chhnang**, one of the largest fishing ports on the Tonle Sap Lake. Here they also have many fish farms. The region is also known for its traditional pottery combining ancient knowledge with modern techniques — Chhnang itself means "pot." We'll enjoy a tasting of regional products before returning on board.

Option: For those seeking more activity, there will be an option at Kampong Chhnang to cycle alongside the riverside and then to the pottery village to explore this area. Return to the ship, 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.

