

# SIEM REAP TO SAIGON

## Boat & Bike program

9 DAYS/8 NIGHTS

### Day 1: SIEM REAP

**Please arrive at 1 p.m. at the designated meeting point.** Transfer by bus to Koh Chen (5-6 hours). After comfortably settling into your cabins, we'll introduce our crew at a welcome cocktail and have dinner on board. We'll spend the night on board. Navigation toward Kampong Chhnang (half way)

### Day 2: KAMPONG CHHNANG – KAMPONG TRALACH

07:00 Tea & Coffee then breakfast on board during navigation

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.

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

### Day 3: KAMPONG TRALACH - PHNOM PENH

07:00 Tea & Coffee then breakfast on board.

08:00 Departure by bike to visit Wat Kampong Tralach to learn how to pray in Buddhist pagoda before giving a donation which contributes to daily meal for the monks then continue to Udong following to the lovely village along the river bank. **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.

Then cycling to Prek Kdam bridge to get on the boat and cruise to Phnom Penh.

**Cycling distance: 25KM**

Lunch on board

After returning on board, start cruising towards Phnom Penh.

Enjoy a performance of classical Khmer dancing and music then dinner. Night on board.

## Day 4: 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).

We'll return on board for dinner in the evening and start sailing towards Vietnam. Night on board.

## Day 5: TAN CHAU – TAN HOA ISLAND – SA DEC

(B/L/D)

Breakfast on board

Arrive at Vinh Xuong Border – Clearance of the entry formalities then depart for Tan Chau.

Continue sailing to Tan Hoa Island.

09:00 You will start your cycling journey from Tan Hoa Island and head towards My Luong. This route will take you through the largest rice fields in the Mekong Delta, providing beautiful and scenic views. Along the way, you will have the opportunity to visit the evergreen village and the Con En tourist site. These locations offer a chance to immerse yourself in the local culture and enjoy the natural surroundings. Enjoy your local lunch with Mekong specialities, this will allow you to savor the flavors of the region's cuisine.

13:30 After lunch, you will continue your ride to discover further the countryside and local villages before boarding your sampan to return to the ship from Con En island at 16h00 and continue sailing down the river to Sa Dec.

**Cycling distance: 45KM**

Dinner and spend the night on board.

## Day 6: SA DEC - CAI BE

Breakfast on board

08:00 Passengers disembark in Sa Dec

You will begin your cycling adventure in Sa Dec town. You will make a circle ride through the ancient quarters of Sa Dec, this will allow you to explore the historic parts of the town and appreciate its cultural and architectural heritage. During your cycling tour, you will have the opportunity to visit the Cao Dai temple in Sa Dec. Cao Dai is a unique Vietnamese religion that blends different spiritual traditions, including Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and Christianity. Visiting the temple will provide insights into this fascinating religious movement.

You will cross a local ferry to Binh Thanh Island. This island offers interesting sights, including communal houses and floating fish farms. It will provide a unique experience as you ride through the island's landscapes.

Upon arrival in Cai Be, you will have the opportunity to visit the handicraft workshops in the area. These workshops produce traditional coconut candy, pop-rices, and other local products. You will learn about the craftsmanship and techniques behind these products.

**Cycling distance: 40KM**

Back to the ship

Dinner and spend the night on board.

## Day 7: CAI BE – MY THO - HO CHI MINH CITY (Saigon)

Breakfast on board

07:00 Disembark the ship for My Tho.

We will cycle to Vinh Trang Temple. Visit this special Buddhist temple of the south Vietnam and continue our ride through the greenery countryside of My Tho. Arrive at Xuan Dong Ferry, we board our boat back to the ship. From this point we say goodbye to our cycling team before you cruise through Cho Gao Canal and cruise up to Saigon.

**Cycling distance: 20-25KM**

Lunch on board and cruise the magnificent **Chao Gao canal**, the entrance to Saigon where you will experience the lively and vibrant canal full of ships and activity, yet still feel close to the life on shore. A must-see part of the cruise as this is the unique passage.

Arrive in Saigon, dinner on board. Night on board.

## Day 8: HO CHI MINH CITY (Saigon)

Breakfast onboard.

Start your day with breakfast onboard. Enjoy a tasty breakfast onboard before our Ho Chin 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 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 to enjoy our farewell cocktail and dinner onboard. We'll remain in port overnight.

### **Day 9: HO CHI MINH CITY (Saigon)**

Enjoy a tasty breakfast onboard before disembarking. After breakfast, we'll then proceed to the **War Museum** to learn more about the history of Vietnam.

Then, we'll transfer to a local restaurant for lunch before bidding you farewell at approximately 2:00 pm. Please note that you should not book your flight before 5:00 pm.

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

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#### 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).

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## **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.