

SAIGON TO SIEM REAP

Classic 8-days cruise from Vietnam to Cambodia

From the bustling Vietnamese metropolis to the magnificent temples of Angkor.

DAY 1 – SAIGON – MY THO

The ship is all spruced up and ready for you. She departs for My Tho. Enjoy a refreshing 'welcome drink' and a briefing on the cruise. Welcome dinner. Overnight onboard.

Embarking port: Saigon Port (Cang Nha Rong Port)



DAY 2 – MY THO – CAI BEI – VINH LONG

The ship departs at the break of dawn. Begin the day with a sumptuous breakfast whilst the ship navigates delicately along the marvellous canal of Cho Gao. We arrive at My Tho. The ship drops anchor close to Thoi Son Island on the banks of a northern arm of the Mekong. My Tho, which means 'fragrant herb' draws thousands of tourists each year, eager to embrace the untouched beauty of the Mekong Delta. It is a prosperous city of some 100,000 inhabitants and is famous for its myriad fruit orchards, gardens and vast rice fields. The climate is warm and pleasant throughout the year. The surrounding countryside is home to one of the most verdant gardens of Vietnam, encircled by coconut palms, as well as banana and mango trees. Visit Vinh Trang pagoda.

Local boats are sent to the ship to transfer you to the mainland.

We embark on a short panoramic tour of My Tho, stopping halfway for a visit to its colourful market. We return to the pier and cruise by local boat to Dragon Island where we enjoy a glimpse of everyday life.

Passengers re-embark the ship. She departs My Tho for Cai Be. A special lunch spread is served before the ship drops anchor at Cai Be.

Vinh Long, Vietnamese for 'Majestic Dragon' sits merrily in the middle of the delta, protected by the two great arms of the Mekong. The soil of Vinh Long is enriched by silt deposits, making it ideal for growing mandarins and other citrus fruit. Visit the handicraft village where workers produce rice paper, rice wine, popped rice etc. in a traditional way. Continuing for Vinh Long - a brick and pottery factory, the Binh Hoa Phuoc Islet Nursery of Fruit Trees as well a typical house and a show room of traditional farming tools.

Life here centres on the water. Houses are perched precariously on stilts that cling to the river banks. Hawkers peddle knick-knacks from their boats. Hundreds of small boats traverse the river every day. The unbridled warmth of the locals makes this a destination par excellence. We return to the ship and depart for Sa Dec. The ship drops anchor at Sa Dec and a delectable dinner awaits.



DAY 3 – SA DEC – CHAU DOC

The day begins with a sumptuous breakfast. You take in a short tour of Sa Dec before we transfer to Trung Vuong Primary School. We then continue our cruise to the Kien An Cung Pagoda.

We stroll around the bustling Sa Dec Market. The small city of 30,000 inhabitants is fascinating in its unspoiled beauty and authenticity. We return to the ship and depart for Chau Doc. Lunch is served on board. We arrive at Chau Doc where local boats ferry us to visit rafts and the Cham Village, home to an ethnic minority group of both Vietnam and Cambodia.

If times permits, we will be able to see the spectacular sunset on the Sam Mountain which peaks at 237 metres. Its well-known Buddhist sanctuaries offer an unobstructed view over the mosaic of glistening rice paddies below. To your left is Cambodia, with the flow of the Mekong on the horizon breaking into an infinity of silver ribbons. Midway, we visit the Lady Chua Xu Temple and Tay An Pagoda. We return to the ship where dinner is served. The ship moors overnight.



DAY 4 – BORDER – PHNOM PENH

The ship leaves at the break of dawn for the Vietnamese border at Vinh Xuong. Breakfast is served. Once formalities have been taken care of, we depart for Phnom Penh, with lunch served en route to the capital city. We arrive in Phnom Penh in the late afternoon. Passengers are free to enjoy the city in the evening.



DAY 5 – PHNOM PENH

Breakfast is served before we depart for a tour of the Royal Palace, its Silver Pagoda and National Museum in the morning. We return to the ship for lunch and in the afternoon we will visit the notorious Toul Sleng Genocide Museum and the famed Russian Market. In the evening, you are entertained by the graceful and beguiling 'Apsara Dance', whilst you enjoy dinner onboard.



DAY 6 – PHNOM PENH – KAMPONG TRALACH

Breakfast is served before a morning at leisure. We depart Phnom Penh at 11.30am, with lunch served en route to Kampong Tralach. We visit the spectacular Wat Kampong Tralach Leu Pagoda before returning to the ship. Dinner is served onboard and the ship moors overnight.



DAY 7 – KAMPONG CHHNANG

At dawn, the ship sails for the port of Kampong Chhnang. Located some 56 miles northeast of Phnom Penh, the town of Kampong Chhnang is one of the largest fishing ports on the Tonlé Sap. It is famous for its fish farms and pottery. Not to be overlooked either are the products of the Thnot tree - a mellow-tasting, caramel-coloured sugar sold in large cakes and palm wine. The tree grows abundantly in the area and is one of Cambodia's national symbols. Lunch on board as we set sail to Koh Chen.



DAY 8 – SIEM REAP

After breakfast on board, we will transfer you by air-conditioned bus to Siem Reap.



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.