

SIEM REAP TO SAIGON

Classic 8-day cruise from Cambodia to Vietnam

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

DAY 1 – SIEM REAP

We gather at the hotel in Siem Reap. Bus transfer from hotel to Koh Chen (5-6 hours bus ride).



DAY 2 – KAMPONG CHHNNANG

You enjoy a sumptuous breakfast onboard while we sail to Kampong Chhnang.

Kampong Chhnang is renowned for its fine clay pottery. In fact, its name in Khmer means 'Port of Pottery'. Kampong Chhnang is a tranquil province lined with sugar-palm trees and paddy fields which blend into the horizon in dazzling hues of gold and green.

We return to the ship and begin our journey to Kampong Tralach. The ship drops anchor a few miles downriver and dinner is served.



DAY 3 – KAMPONG TRALACH – PHNOM PENH

Breakfast on board. Visit its wonderful Vihara belonging to Wat Kampong Tralach Leu pagoda. To get to it, we cross Kampong Tralach Krom village along a small road perpendicular to the river, crossing some gorgeous stretches of emerald rice paddy as we leave the river behind. We return to the ship and depart for Phnom Penh, with lunch served onboard. We arrive in the capital, Phnom Penh and passengers are free to explore this "Pearl of Asia" for the balance of the afternoon. In the early evening, you are entertained by the graceful and beguiling 'Apsara Dance' before dinner is served.



DAY 4 - Phnom Penh

A buffet breakfast is enjoyed before we visit the Royal Palace, its Silver Pagoda, National Museum and Wat Phnom in the afternoon. We'll have lunch at a local restaurant and after, we will visit the Toul Sleng Genocide Museum and Russian Market. Return to the ship. Dinner onboard as we depart Phnom Penh.



DAY 5 – BORDER – CHAU DOC

The ship leaves at the break of dawn for the Kaam Samnar Border (Cambodia) and Vinh Xuong Border (Vietnam). Breakfast is served. We arrive at the check-point. After formalities have been concluded, we depart for Chau Doc. Located on the border between Cambodia and Vietnam, the prosperous city of Chau Doc has developed around fish and fish farming.

Visit Cham minority village by local boat. Bamboo fish drying racks are set up a meter above the water's surface. The burgeoning downtown area features some charmingly rustic colonial buildings, squeezed in by the marketplace - the colorful, vibrant heart of the city. As always, these busy parts of town, despite their sometimes strong odors, offer wonderful photo opportunities...

Short panoramic tour of the city. This is the perfect timing to discover the effervescence of the local market. Dinner is served onboard. The ship moors overnight.



DAY 6 – CHAU DOC – SA DEC

Breakfast and lunch are served on board. Short panoramic tour of Sa Dec and transfer by bus to Trung Vuong primary school. Continuing to Kien An Cung Pagoda. Stroll around Sa Dec Market along Sa Dec River bank. This small city of 30,000 inhabitants is fascinating in its unspoiled authenticity and undisturbed by tourists. It provides a glimpse of the delta where a few colonial houses still remain, including the "Chinaman's house" (from Duras' novel "The Lover", also made into a movie). We return to the ship as we set sail to Vinh Long.



DAY 7 – VINH LONG – CAI BEI – MY THO

After breakfast, local boats pick up passengers and tour a brick and pottery factory and the Binh Hoa Phuoc Islet Fruit Tree Nursery. We visit a typical local dwelling and a showroom of traditional farming tools. 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.

Life here centres on the water. Houses are perched precariously on stilts that cling to the banks of the river. 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. The ship cruises towards Cai Be for a short panoramic tour. We then sail onto My Tho.

After Lunch, local boats transfer you to the mainland for a short panoramic tour of My Tho. My Tho, which translates as 'fragrant herb' in Vietnamese, 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, 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 and banana and mango trees.

We return to the ship and then cruise towards Saigon. A sumptuous farewell dinner is served and the ship moors overnight.



DAY 8 – MY THO SAIGON

The ship departs for Saigon. Enjoy a leisurely breakfast on board before packing your bags and relaxing in good time for our arrival at Saigon Port.



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.