

SAIGON TO SIEM REAP

Classic 9-days cruise from Vietnam to Cambodia

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

Day 1: HO CHI MINH CITY (Saigon)

Meet at the Liberty Central Riverside Hotel restaurant between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Lunch at the hotel.

In the afternoon, we will tour the city: Reunification palace, Notre Dame cathedral and Central Post office.

We'll visit Cholon, the Chinese-influenced section of the city, including its hectic market and Ba Thien Hau Pagoda dedicated to the sea goddess Mazu. 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)

We'll leave by coach for the Cu Chi tunnels, an immense network of underground tunnels that were used by Viet Cong soldiers as hiding spots during combat, as well as serving as communication and supply routes, hospitals, food and weapon caches. Lunch will be served on board. Visit the Museum of Vietnamese History. We'll then set out to cross the very narrow Cho Gao Canal. Night on board.

Day 3: CHAO GAO - MY THO - VINH LONG - CAI BE

We continue our cruise to My Tho along the magnificent Cho Gao Canal. Local boats comes alongside the Toum Tiou II to pick up passengers to the mainland for a short panoramic tour of My Tho town and visit Vinh Trang pagoda, stop for a visit of My Tho market. Return at the pier - Passengers cruise on the river to Dragon Island by local boat to visit the island, explore local people's daily life and enjoy locally seasonal fruits. Lunch on board. We'll discover a brick and pottery factory as well as a traditional factory producing puffed riced, rice-paper wrappers used to make nems, and rice alcohol*. Night on board.

Day 4: SA DEC

Visit the former house of Huynh Thuy Le, the man who Marguerite Duras based her book *The Lover* on. Short panoramic tour and transfer 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. We'll return on board our ship and have lunch. Sailing towards Chau Doc. Located on the border between Cambodia and Vietnam, the prosperous city of Chau Doc has developed around fish and fish farming.

If the timing is allowing it, watch of the sunset on the Sam Mountain which peaks at 237 meters. Its well-known Buddhist sanctuaries offer an unobstructed view over the mosaic of glistening rice paddies below. To the left is Cambodia, the flow of the Mekong on the horizon breaks into an infinity of silver ribbons. Visit on the way of the Lady Chua Xu temple and Tay An Pagoda.

Night on board.

Day 5: CHAU DOC - PHNOM PENH

Breakfast is served on board as we sail to the border. After the custom formalities, we will set sail towards Phnom Penh while having lunch on board. We'll arrive late afternoon in Phnom Penh. Dinner and overnight on board.

Day 6: PHNOM PENH

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 & Wat Phnom. After lunch in town, you can pay a visit to the Tuol Svay Prey School, a former detention, torture, and execution center run by the Khmer Rouge during the civil war. Afterwards, enjoy some free time at the market. 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: KOH CHEN - KAMPONG TRALACH

The Toum Tiou II leaves Phnom Penh for Koh Chen. Breakfast during navigation. Visit of Koh Chen, a small village where craftspeople specialize in silver and copper work. Lunch on board. Visit of 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. Our ship will remain anchored overnight.

Day 8: KAMPONG CHHNANG – KOH CHEN

Departure of the Toum Tiou II early in the morning. Sail to Kampong Chhnnang. Breakfast during navigation. Visit of Kampong Chhnnang, one of the largest fishing ports on Tonle Sap Lake. Here they also have many fish farms. The region is best known for its fine traditional pottery which is a major source of revenue for the entire country. Tasting of some local products. Lunch on board. We'll then continue our cruise towards Koh Chen.

Cocktail and gala dinner tonight. Overnight on board.

Day 9: SIEM REAP

Breakfast on board. After breakfast, passengers will be transferred by air-conditioned coach from Koh Chen to Lotus Blanc Hotel in Siem Reap (5-6 hours bus ride). 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.