

# SIEM REAP TO SAIGON

Classic 9-day cruise from Cambodia to Vietnam

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

## Day 1: SIEM REAP

Meeting at a Hotel in Siem Reap. 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.

## Day 2: KAMPONG CHHNANG

Breakfast and lunch on board as we sail to Kampong Chhnang. Visit Kampong Chhnang, one of the largest fishing ports on Tonle Sap Lake. Fish farming is abundant here. 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 and beginning to cruise to Kampong Tralach. We'll have dinner and spend the night on board.

## Day 3: KAMPONG TRALACH - KOH CHEN - PHNOM PENH

We will set out to 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. After a short navigation, we'll arrive in Koh Chen. You can explore this small village where craftspeople specialize in silver and copper work. After returning on board, we'll have lunch while cruising towards Phnom Penh, arriving in the afternoon. We'll return to the ship and enjoy a performance of classical Khmer dancing and music and have dinner.

## Day 4: 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 and 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. We'll return on board for dinner in the evening and start sailing towards Vietnam.

## Day 5: 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. We'll have dinner and spend the night on board.

### **Day 6: SA DEC - VINH LONG - CAI BE**

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 have lunch on board and cruise to Vinh Long. We'll set out in smaller boats and travel through canals and orchards before arriving in Cai Be. 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\*. We'll return on board our ship and begin to cruise. We'll have dinner and spend the night on board.

### **Day 7: MY THO - HO CHI MINH CITY (Saigon)**

Arrival at My Tho – Toum Tiou II drops anchor on river in the proximity of Thoi Son Island

Local boats come 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. On the banks of a northern arm of the Mekong, My Tho, which translates as "fragrant herb", where tourists come to discover the beauty of the delta. It's a quiet, prosperous city of about 100,000 inhabitants, famous for its many fruit orchards, gardens and the huge rice fields that surround it. The climate is warm and pleasant year round. The surrounding countryside is home to one of the most luxuriant gardens of Vietnam, with its coconut palms, banana and mango trees. Lunch will be served on board. We'll then set out to cross the very narrow Cho Gao Canal, heading for Ho Chi Minh City. We'll have dinner and remain in port overnight in the downtown area.

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

After breakfast, 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. After our excursion, we'll return on board our ship. Lunch will be served on board. Ho Chi Minh City was heavily influenced by French colonialism in the 19th century. After lunch, we'll enjoy a tour of the city to see the Reunification Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral, and the Saigon Central Post Office, and visit the Museum of Vietnamese History. Tonight we'll have our farewell cocktail and dinner. We'll remain in port overnight.

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

Enjoy breakfast on board before disembarking. We'll spend the morning visiting Cholon, the Chinese- influenced section of the city, including its hectic market. **After lunch in town, we'll bid you farewell at approximately 2:00 p.m. Please do not book your flight before 5:00 p.m.**

*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.