

# TOUM TIOU II (14 cabins/28 passengers) SAIGON TO SIEM REAP Discovery program 9 DAYS/8 NIGHTS

We are thrilled to present our latest program, designed to combine exploration, cultural immersion, and light activities for a memorable cruising experience on-board the Toum Tiou 2.

Our charming vessel offers personalized service in an intimate environment, perfect for small groups who seek an authentic and dynamic Mekong River journey.

Our itinerary includes a range of activities like biking, kayaking, sampan rides, rowing boat/motor boat and walking tours that provide opportunities to discover the hidden treasures of the Mekong River, including traditional village visits and climbing the stunning Udong Hill. Moreover, we'll take you on a motor & rowing boat tour of the magnificent Tra Su Forest, where you'll witness incredible flora and fauna of this beautiful natural environment.

Experience the perfect balance of cultural immersion and light adventure, while enjoying the authentic Mekong River charm.

With an emphasis on personalized service, cultural exploration, and a touch of adventure, our program promises to deliver an unforgettable cruising experience and makes a perfect match for the Toum Tiou 2. Here is a day-by-day breakdown of the program:

## Day 1: HO CHI MINH CITY (Saigon)

(-/L/D)

Meet at the **Liberty Central Saigon Riverside Hotel** between 11.30 am and 12:30 pm. (hotel address: 17 Ton Duc Thang Street, Ben Nghe Ward, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City. Phone: +84 28 3827 1717).

We will have lunch at this hotel restaurant or at a local restaurant. 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

After comfortably settling into your cabins, we'll introduce our crew at a welcome cocktail, have dinner and spend the night on board downtown.

Option:

Optional vespa tour (book 24 hours before)

Program: Saigon After Dark

Saigon After Dark is a part night excursion, part street/local food adventure. Guests experience the nightlife of Saigon the way locals do, all from the back of a vintage Vespa scooter.

Tour itinerary:

- 1. Stop for a cocktail and appetizer at a rooftop lounge before adventuring into your favorite local eating spot.
- 2. Enjoy street seafood with cold drinks at a local restaurant
- 3. Stop at a Vietnamese pancake restaurant Banh Xeo, a specialty of Saigon and southern food with the locals.
- 4. After this the tour will bring you to a live music venue to enjoy the drinks with live music.

Moving from stop to stop, you will enjoy the nightlife of this hustle and bustle city as well as see the iconic sights along the way.

Tour Runs Daily - 6:00pm-10:00pm | Tour Duration - 4 hours | 120 USD/ pax

# Day 2: HO CHI MINH CITY (Saigon)

(B/L/D)

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 then proceed to the **War Museum** to learn more about the history of Vietnam before returning to the ship

Ship leaves Saigon for My Tho and dinner on board.

Night on board.

# Day 3: MY THO/CAI BE (B/L/D)

Breakfast on board and cruise the magnificent **Chao Gao canal**, where you will experience the lively and vibrant canal full of ships activity, yet still feel close to the life on shore. A must-see part of the cruise and we're the only cruise line offering this unique passage. Arrival in My Tho.

In My Tho we will kick off with a local boat pick-up that will take us on a boat cruise to **Thoi Son island** where we will have the opportunity to explore the daily lives of the local people and enjoy seasonal fruits. We will also take a **Sampan ride** along the scenic canals for a closer look at the Mekong Delta and its unique features. Later we'll go biking on our own and explore the village to see firsthand how the local people live and to admire the magnificent fruit orchards in the area. This is the perfect chance to connect with the locals and witness their way of life.

Back to ship. Ship leaves for Cai Be and we'll enjoy lunch whilst cruising. Arrival at Cai Be.

Start Cai Be with a local boat trip to cruise along the Mekong River. Disembark to visit the **craft village** where you can witness how the local products are made.

Continue cruising on the boat. Get off at the fruit orchards comprising of many kinds of fruits such as: jack-fruit, durian, guava, rambutan, longan etc... drink hot tea, eat fresh fruits and enjoy a live local music performance.

We'll then enjoy a **kayaking** adventure. Don't worry if you are a first-time paddler, it is not difficult. This is a unique experience in the Mekong Delta providing a unique aquatic perspective of the surrounding natural beauty. Then there is the opportunity to explore the countryside by mountain bike providing another view of the local scenery. Whichever of the activities you do, you will get a distinctive glimpse into the beauty and authenticity of the Mekong River.

Ship leaves Cai Be for Sa Dec. Dinner during cruising and night on board.

Day 4: SA DEC (B/L/D)

Breakfast on board

Local boat pick-up for a short panoramic tour of Sa Dec, including a visit to the **Trung Vuong primary school** (will close on Saturday, Sunday, holiday and New Year) where you'll get a chance to learn more about the local education system. Afterward, we will enjoy a promenade at **Sa Dec market** on the riverbank. (Local market will be closed on Lunar New Year) where you can experience local commerce. This is a perfect opportunity to immerse yourself in the local culture and enjoy the charming river surroundings.

Ship leaves Sa Dec for Chau Doc, lunch and dinner on board during cruising.

# Day 5: CHAU DOC - PHNOM PENH (B/L/D)

Breakfast on board.

Our friendly Vietnamese guide and comfortable van will be awaiting passengers at the pier, ready to take you on a tour to **Tra Su Forest.** We'll experience this beautiful forest with a motorboat and rowing boat tour, where you can witness this incredible and diverse flora and fauna of this stunning natural environment.

Back to the ship for lunch.

After lunch we will board a cable car and embark on an unforgettable journey to Sam mountain with our exclusive addition to the excursion program in Chau Doc – **the Nui Sam Cable Car.** Passengers will enjoy breathtaking panoramic views as the ride unfolds. Upon the summit of Sam Mountain, we will embrace spectacular views towards the border of Cambodia and Vietnam. After soaking in the views, we will pay a visit to the Ba Chua Xu Temple on the way back down the mountain before heading back to the ship.

We'll then depart to Vinh Xuong Border.

Arrive at Vinh Xuong Border – Clearance of the entry formalities then Ship leaves to Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Arrival in the late evening in Phnom Penh. Dinner on board. We'll remain at anchor overnight. Night on board

Day 6: PHNOM PENH (B/L/D)

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).

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: UDONG - KAMPONG TRALACH

(B/L/D)

Breakfast on board

The ship then departs to **Udong**, Cambodia's former capital. We'll dock at Koh Chen and transfer by van to Udong. 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.

After returning on board, start cruising towards **Kampong Tralach.** Lunch on board.

We will 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. We then offer clients the choice to either return to the ship by oxcart or enjoy a mountain biking experience through the stunning countryside to witness the beauty of the rice fields surrounding the area before returning to the ship.

Set sail to **Kampong Chhnang** and dinner and night on board.

Breakfast on board

Visit **Kampong Chhnang**, one of the largest fishing ports on the Tonle Sap Lake. Here they also have many fish farms. 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.

Option: For those seeking more activity, there will be an option at Kampong Chhnang to cycle alongside the riverside and then to the pottery village to explore this area. Return to the ship, lunch on board whilst cruising to Koh Chen.

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

Day 9: SIEM REAP (B/-/-)

Breakfast on board. After breakfast, passengers will be transferred by air-conditioned coach from Koh Chen to Siem Reap (5-6 hours bus ride). Drop off at the meeting point. End of our journey. **Please do not book your flight before 3:00 p.m.** 

#### **FIT CONDITIONS**

#### **Price includes:**

cruise in the category of cabin chosen at booking stage - transfers between meeting point and ship - all meals - drinks (coffee, tea & drinking water) - French or English speaking guide - visits mentioned in the program - Entrance fees - Port fees – Wifi

# Price does not include:

Personal Travel Insurance - Visas if needed - Tours & meals other than those mentioned in the program - Transfers from/to airport and hotels - Personal expenses - Gratuities for the crew/guides

# **Formalities**

Non-EU nationals are requested to consult their embassy or consulate.

## THE CROISIEUROPE DIFFERENCE

- All meals included
- Refined local cuisine
- Headsets are included for excursions
- Official welcome from the captain and crew
- Tour Guide
- Onboard activities and/or lectures
- All port fees included

# **USEFUL INFORMATION**

#### **HEALTH FORMALITIES**

Vaccines are not mandatory for this trip. However, it is advisable to be up to date with all vaccinations (tetanus, polio, hepatitis A and B, diphtheria, and typhoid fever). Your doctor will prescribe an antimalarial drug if necessary. Mosquito repellent is strongly recommended.

#### **WEATHER**

The dry season lasts from December to April, but the air remains humid (temperature: 77° to 95°F). The rainy season, from May to November, can present very strong but brief storms that generally take place at the end of the afternoon.

#### **METHODS OF PAYMENT - CURRENCY EXCHANGE**

- The currency accepted on board is the US dollar. You can pay in dollars or using an international credit/debit card (Visa and MasterCard) at the end of the cruise. In Cambodia, it is recommended to have some US dollars in cash with you. In Vietnam, if you wish to buy souvenirs, we recommend that you change about £20 or \$20 into dongs on arrival.
- For the current exchange rates for the Vietnamese dong and the Cambodian riel, please consult websites such as <a href="https://www.xe.com">www.xe.com</a> or <a href="https://www.ve.com">www.oanda.com/currency/converter/</a>.

#### NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

- Tet (Vietnamese Lunar New Year) holidays in February
- Khmer Traditional New Year in April
- "Pchum Ben" in September
- "Water and Moon Festival" in November

During these days, some sites can be closed without warning.

#### TIME DIFFERENCE

You can consult www.worldtimezone.com to see the time difference between your home and your destination.

#### **CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM VISA**

#### Cambodia E-VISA and ordinary Tourist VISA

#### VISA UPON ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT IN CAMBODIA

Immigration formalities are quicker when travelers already possess their <u>ordinary Cambodia Tourist visa</u>. Cambodia's visa regulations are quite liberal. However, all travelers must complete the E-arrival card within 7 days prior to arrival, and present the QR code to the immigration officer upon arrival at the airport.

For a fee of \$30 USD, travelers can obtain a 30-day single-entry tourist visa upon arrival at the airport. Please ensure that your passport is valid for at least six months beyond your planned departure date, and bring one passport photo.

# VISA UPON ARRIVAL AT RIVER/WATERWAY BORDER

Passengers embarking on the Mekong Cruise from Vietnam to Cambodia (Saigon to Siem Reap) are reminded that the Cambodia E-VISA is only accepted at airports and some land borders, but not at the river/waterway borders.

The accepted visa at the waterway/river border is the ordinary Cambodia Tourist visa, which is valid for one (1) month with a single entry. Passengers can apply and obtain this visa at the border or upon arrival in Phnom Penh. Alternatively, it can be applied for in advance at the nearest Cambodian embassy in your home country. Please note that two passport-sized photos (2x2) are required for the visa application. The visa fee is \$35 USD per person (subject to change).

Passengers are not required to complete the E-arrival card in advance; this can be done upon arrival at Phnom Penh Autonomous Port.

#### **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 <u>new</u> official border name is **Vinh Xuong international land and border gate** - An Giang Province (formerly called **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.

# **MENTIONS**

These cruises and tours are not recommended for persons with reduced mobility as there are no lifts on board the ships.

- Low waters can happen at any time during the year. The time frames are given as examples, but are dependent on the quality of rainfall.
- The banks of the river we will cruise on can be steep and slippery depending on the water level.
- The itinerary, stopovers, and excursions can be modified by the cruise company and our on-site representatives if needed. The captain of the ship is the sole authority who can modify the ship itinerary for safety or navigational reasons.
- (1) Or similar, meeting points will be confirmed in your travel document.
- \*Alcohol can be harmful to your health. Please drink in moderation.