



# Mekong Classic Cruise

SAIGON TO SIEM REAP, 9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS

The Mekong Classic offers seamless passage between Vietnam and Cambodia, blending the charm of slow travel with authentic encounters.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Explore Phnom Penh's Royal Palace & National Museum**, rich in Khmer heritage
- **Visit Chau Doc's floating fish farms** and riverside Cham communities by sampan
- **Stroll Sa Dec's colorful market** and visit Huynh Thuy Le's historic French colonial home known as the "Lover's House"
- **Glide through Cai Be's peaceful canals** and sample tropical fruits in local orchards and markets
- **Meet artisans in Koh Chen**, known for silverwork and handmade pottery
- **Savor quiet moments on deck**, watching the ever-changing river landscapes unfold



"We are both well-traveled and this was definitely a 'trip of a lifetime'."

—Janis T

## The **CroisiEurope** Difference



- All meals included
- Refined local cuisine
- Headsets are included for excursions
- Official welcome from the captain and crew
- Expert Tour Guides
- Onboard activities and/or lectures
- Travel assistance and repatriation insurance
- All port fees included

# Mekong Classic Program



### 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 enjoy free time on board or we'll leave by coach for the **Cu Chi tunnels**<sup>1</sup>, 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 **Chao Gao Canal**. Night on board.



### Day 3: MY THO - CAI BE

We continue our cruise to **My Tho** along the magnificent Chao Gao Canal. Visit of a bee farm and enjoy some honey tea and exotic fruit. Lunch on board. We'll discover a **brick and pottery factory** as well as a **traditional rice 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. After our excursion, enjoy some free time in Sa Dec. We'll return on board our ship and have lunch. Sailing to **Chau Doc**, a town on the border between Cambodia and Vietnam, whose territory became Vietnamese 300 years ago. Night on board.



### Day 5: CHAU DOC - PHNOM PENH

Located on the border between Cambodia and Vietnam, the prosperous city of Chau Doc has developed around fish and fish farming. We'll visit the **Tay An Pagoda** and the **Ba Chua Xu Temple**. Lunch on board.

Arrival in the evening in **Phnom Penh**. Dinner on board. We'll remain in port overnight.



### 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**. 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: KAMPONG TRALACH - UDONG

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, 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

Visit of **Kampong Chhnang**, 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**, a major source of revenue for the entire country.

Tasting of some local products. Lunch on board. We'll then continue our cruise. **Cocktail and gala dinner** tonight. Our ship will remain anchored overnight.



### Day 9: SIEM REAP

Disembark, road to Siem Reap<sup>2</sup> and discovery of traditional villages or morning cruise through **Tonle Lake** and disembark.

Transfer to the **Lotus Blanc Hotel** in Siem Reap. End of our services around 12:30 p.m.

**Please do not book your flight before 3:30 p.m.**

#### **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.*

## Pricing & Inclusions

### Price includes

Cruise in the category of cabin chosen at booking stage - all meals - free flowing drinks (local beers, soft drinks, coffee, tea & drinking water) only on board the ship - French or English speaking guide - visits mentioned in the program - Entrance fees - Port fees – Transfer from the ship to meeting point - Wifi.

**Tips:** We take care of gratuities so you can simply enjoy your journey. A total of \$35 per passenger goes to local staff in the countries you visit and \$45 per passenger goes to our dedicated onboard crew – reflecting local customs and honoring their exceptional service.

### 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

## 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 AND 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, we recommend keeping some US dollars with you. In Vietnam, if you wish to buy souvenirs, we recommend that you change about £20 or \$20 into dong on arrival. For the current exchange rates for the Vietnamese dong and the Cambodian riel, please consult websites such as [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com) or [www.oanda.com/currency/converter/](http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/).

### 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](http://www.worldtimezone.com) to see the time difference between your home and your destination.

## VISAS AND BORDER CROSSINGS

**Non-EU nationals are requested to consult their embassy or consulate about visa requirements.**

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

Travelers can obtain a 30-day single-entry tourist visa upon arrival for \$30 USD. Please ensure your passport is valid for at least six months beyond your planned departure date and bring one passport photo. All travelers must complete the E-arrival card within seven days prior to arrival and present the QR code upon arrival at the airport.

## **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 valid at airports and some land borders. Please note that Cambodia E-VISA is not accepted at the river/waterway borders.

The visa accepted at the waterway/river border is the **ordinary Cambodia Tourist visa**, which is valid for one (1) month with a single entry. Guests can apply for this visa in advance at the nearest Cambodian embassy in their home country. Alternatively, it can be obtained at the river border crossing or upon arrival in Phnom Penh. 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; it can be done upon arrival at Phnom Penh Autonomous Port.

## **VIETNAM VISAS**

For guests joining the Mekong Cruise from Cambodia to Vietnam (Siem Reap to Saigon), please remember to enter the correct date of entry when the ship crosses the border, as well as the correct name of the border gate

or port of entry in Vietnam. The new official border name is Vinh Xuong international land and border gate - An Giang Province (formerly called Song Tien Landport Checkpoint). We recommend passengers set the entry date on their Vietnam visa to one day before the ship crosses the border. Be sure to thoroughly review the program sent to you after booking. Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions about border crossings or dates.

Guests joining the Mekong Cruise from Vietnam to Cambodia (Saigon to Siem Reap) can apply for a Vietnam visa at the nearest Vietnamese embassy or obtain an e-visa online. Some countries are exempt for short stays. The list of countries and 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.

- 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) The transfer by coach takes approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes each way.

(2) A 5 to 6-hour bus journey to reach Siem Reap.

\*Alcohol can be harmful to your health. Please drink in moderation.