



# Mekong Classic Cruise

SIEM REAP TO SAIGON, 8 DAYS / 7 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: SIEM REAP – KOH CHEN

**Please arrive at 1 p.m. at the Lotus Blanc Hotel<sup>1</sup> 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: KOH CHEN – KAMPONG CHHNANG

Sail to **Kampong Chhnang**. 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.

Continue your visit to **Wat Yeaytep Pagoda**, which was built in 1677, 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 – PHNOM PENH

Breakfast on board. Visit the beautiful **Vihara** at the **Wat Kampong Tralach Leu** pagoda. To access the pagoda, we need to cross the village of **Kampong Tralach Krom**, moving along a small road that runs perpendicular to the river in the middle of magnificent rice fields.

The Vihara dates back to early last century. It was probably built on an older site, as indicated by the latérite foundations, and is home to some outstanding mural paintings. These, however, are starting to suffer from weathering. They remain one of the last survivors of cultural destruction that continues unabated due to widespread indifference. Standing by itself in the middle of rice fields, it is a modest pagoda that receives very few visitors. Its isolation may well be its undoing, as was the case for Wat Tani Pagoda in the province of Kampot.

Lunch on board on the way to **Phnom Penh**.

Arrival in Phnom Penh. Balance of the day free exploration on own. Enjoy a performance of **classical Khmer dancing** and music then dinner. Night on board.



### Day 4: PHNOM PENH

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**.

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.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

Visit the **Toul Sleng Genocide Museum**, the Khmer Rouge detention center known for widespread torture and executions during 1975-1979. The visit is essential to understanding the fatal madness perpetrated by the Khmer Rouge.

Visit **Russian Market**.

We'll return on board for dinner in the evening and start sailing towards Vietnam. Night on board.



### Day 5: CHAU DOC

Breakfast on board. Arrive at **Vinh Xuong Border** – Clearance of the entry formalities then depart for **Chau Doc**.

Located to the north at the beginning of Mekong's famous delta, Chau Doc straddles both banks of the Mekong, which fans out to the dimensions of a river mouth here. Floating fish farms have sprung up everywhere. 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: CHAU DOC – SA DEC – VINH LONG

We'll begin to cruise toward **Sa Dec**. Breakfast during navigation. Local boat picks up for a short panoramic tour of Sa Dec and stroll around the local market along the 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).

This is a perfect opportunity to immerse yourself in the local culture and enjoy the charming river surroundings. Lunch on board.

Ship leaves Sa Dec for **Vinh Long**. Dinner during cruising and night on board.



## Day 7: VING LONG - CAI BE - MY THO

Breakfast on board. Arrival at Vinh Long, where local boats pick up passengers for visiting a brick and pottery factory, the **Binh Hoa Phuoc Islet Nursery of Fruit Trees**, as well as a typical house and a show room of traditional farming tools.

Vinh Long, which translates as “**Majestic Dragon**,” is right in the middle of the delta, between two arms of the Mekong. The soil of Vinh Long is enriched by silt deposits, making it ideal for growing mandarins and other citrus fruits. Life is organized around the water. Houses on stilts, hawkers in boats, hundreds of small craft crisscross in all directions. The hospitality of the locals makes it a tourist destination par excellence.

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

Return to the ship and continue cruising to **My Tho**. Lunch during navigation. Arrival in My Tho. Spend the night near **Thoi Son Island**.

In My Tho, we will kick off with a local boat pick-up that takes us to the mainland for a short panoramic tour of My Tho town, visit to **Vinh Trang pagoda** and stop at My Tho market. On the banks of a northern arm of the Mekong, My Tho, which translates as “fragrant herb,” is 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.

Ship leaves My Tho for **Saigon**. Cruise the magnificent **Chao Gao canal**, the entrance to Saigon, where you will experience a lively and vibrant canal full of ships and activity, yet still feel close to the life on shore. A must-see part of the river, and we’re the only cruise line offering this unique passage.

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



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

Set sail to HO CHI MINH CITY (Saigon) and breakfast during navigation. Toum Tiou I arrives at Saigon Port next to Ho Chi Minh Museum. (Address: 5 Nguyen Tat Thanh street, Xom Chieu Ward, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam).

Custom formalities clearance. End of our journey.

### **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

Your cruise in the cabin category of your choice - transfer of the boat to downtown Siem Reap - all meals - onboard drinks included (except for drinks from our special lists) - visits and excursions mentioned in the program - the services of an English-speaking local tour guides - travel assistance and repatriation insurance.

### Price does not include

International flights and their taxes - transfers not mentioned in the program - Cambodian and Vietnamese visas - cancellation and baggage insurance - drinks on board from our special lists - drinks other than those mentioned.

## 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

## 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.

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 a fee of \$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 to the immigration officer 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; this 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 that passengers set the entry date on their Vietnam visa to one (1) day before the ship crosses the border. Be sure to thoroughly review the program sent to you after booking. If you have any questions about the border crossing date, please don't hesitate to contact us.

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) Meeting points are subject to change and will be confirmed in your travel document.

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