



## Itinerary

### 2 PEOPLE: 9 Day Exclusive Mekong River Cruise [CRUISE ONLY]

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE:** Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this itinerary.

#### Day 1: Arrive Siem Reap, Cambodia

Your adventure begins as you arrive at the designated meeting point in Siem Reap by 1:00 p.m. From there, we'll embark on a scenic bus journey to Koh Chen, a ride of approximately 5-6 hours. Upon arrival, you'll settle into your comfortable cabin onboard, where you can unwind and relax. Later in the evening, we'll introduce you to the crew during a welcome cocktail before enjoying a delicious dinner onboard. The night will be spent onboard, as we begin our journey through the waterways.

**MEALS:** Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Toum Tiou 2

#### Day 2: Koh Chen ~ Kampong Chhnang

We set sail for Kampong Chhnang, enjoying lunch as the boat cruises along. Kampong Chhnang is one of the largest fishing ports on Tonle Sap Lake and home to many fish farms. This region is renowned for its traditional pottery, blending ancient techniques with modern styles – the town's name, "Chhnang," literally means "pot."

During our visit, we'll sample local delicacies and explore the town before returning to the ship to continue our cruise towards Kampong Tralach.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Toum Tiou 2

**\*\*\*OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: CYCLING EXCURSION\*\*\***

*If you're feeling adventurous, you can join a cycling excursion along the riverbanks and through the pottery village to get a closer look at the local way of life.*

Dinner will be served onboard as we cruise towards our next destination, and we'll spend the night onboard.

#### Day 3: Kampong Tralach ~ Phnom Penh

After breakfast onboard, we'll visit the beautiful Wat Kampong Tralach Leu pagoda. To reach the pagoda, we'll take an unforgettable journey on ox carts, travelling along a small road that winds through lush rice fields.

On the return journey, you'll have the option to ride the ox cart again or hop on a mountain bike to enjoy a scenic ride through the countryside. Lunch will be served back onboard as the ship departs for Udong, Cambodia's former capital.

In Udong, we'll visit the Vipassana Dhura Buddhist Meditation Centre, where you'll learn about the art of insight meditation. We'll then climb the steps to the three large stupas holding the ashes of former kings, offering breathtaking views over the surrounding plains.

In the evening, we cruise towards Phnom Penh. Enjoy a spectacular Khmer dance and music performance followed by dinner onboard as we spend the night on the ship.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Toum Tiou 2

#### Day 4: Phnom Penh City Tour

After breakfast onboard, we'll explore the highlights of Phnom Penh. Our morning tour will include visits to the Royal Palace, the National Museum and the Silver Pagoda, iconic symbols of Cambodian architecture.

In the afternoon, we'll embark on an exciting tuk-tuk ride through the lively streets, stopping at the Art Deco Central Market (Phsar Thmei) to explore its colourful stalls. Afterward, we'll stroll through hidden alleyways, experiencing daily life firsthand as locals enjoy coffee and play Cambodian-style chess.

Our exploration continues with a visit to Wat Phnom, the city's namesake pagoda built in 1373 to house sacred relics. We'll conclude the day with a walk through the French Quarter, admiring colonial architecture and public buildings from the French Protectorate era.

We'll return to the ship for dinner and set sail towards Vietnam.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Toum Tiou 2

#### Day 5: Phnom Penh ~ Chau Doc, Vietnam

After breakfast onboard, we'll arrive at the Vinh Xuong Border to complete the immigration formalities. From there, we cruise to the vibrant town of Chau Doc. This bustling town on the Cambodia-Vietnam border thrives on fish farming.

Our excursion takes us to Tra Su Forest, where you'll explore the lush wetlands by motorboat and rowing boat, discovering the incredible flora and fauna of the area.

Afterward, we'll enjoy lunch onboard before embarking on the Nui Sam Cable Car to ascend Sam Mountain, with stunning views of the Vietnam-Cambodia border. On the way back, we'll visit the Ba Chua Xu Temple, an important pilgrimage site.

Dinner will be served onboard as we cruise towards Sa Dec.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Toum Tiou 2

## Day 6: Sa Dec ~ Cai Be

After breakfast onboard, a local boat will take us on a short tour of Sa Dec, including a visit to the Trung Vuong Primary School (open on weekdays only). We'll then take a stroll through the lively Sa Dec market, bustling with vendors and vibrant local life.

As we cruise towards Cai Be, you'll have the chance to explore local craft villages and learn about traditional production methods. Later, we'll enjoy a visit to fruit orchards, sampling tropical fruits and sipping hot tea, accompanied by a live music performance.

Lunch will be served at a riverside restaurant, followed by a cooking class with a local chef. In the afternoon, you can enjoy a kayaking adventure or mountain bike ride, immersing yourself in the natural beauty of the Mekong Delta. Dinner will be served onboard as we cruise towards My Tho.

*Note: Local markets will be closed on the Lunar New Year.*

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Toum Tiou 2

## Day 7: My Tho ~ Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)

After breakfast, we'll explore the island of Thoi Son by boat, learning about the local way of life and sampling seasonal fruits. We'll take a traditional sampan ride along narrow canals, offering an intimate look at life in the delta. 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.

In the afternoon, we cruise through the Chao Gao Canal, a vibrant waterway bustling with activity, before arriving in Saigon. Enjoy dinner onboard as the ship remains docked overnight.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Toum Tiou 2

**\*\*\*OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: SAIGON AFTER DARK VESPA TOUR\*\*\***

*Saigon After Dark is a unique evening excursion that combines the thrill of the city's nightlife with a delicious street food journey. Experience Saigon like a local, riding through the vibrant streets on the back of a vintage Vespa scooter.*

### **Tour Highlights:**

1. Begin with a cocktail and appetiser at a rooftop lounge, soaking in stunning views of the city.
2. Head to a local eatery to enjoy street seafood paired with refreshing cold drinks.
3. Stop at a traditional Banh Xeo restaurant, where you'll taste this iconic Vietnamese pancake, a specialty of Saigon and southern cuisine.
4. Finish the night at a live music venue, where you'll relax with a drink while enjoying performances from local musicians.

This immersive tour takes you from one lively location to the next, giving you the chance to explore Saigon's bustling streets and iconic landmarks under the glow of the city lights.

**Tour Details:**

- Daily Departure: 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- Duration: 4 hours

**Day 8: Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) City Tour**

After breakfast, we'll explore Saigon's iconic landmarks on a walking tour, including Reunification Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral, City Square, the Opera House and the Municipal Post Office. You'll also have a chance to experience the Vietnamese coffee culture, which is an integral part of daily life in the city. After lunch onboard, we'll visit the vibrant Chinatown and the historic Giac Lam Pagoda. We'll also explore the bustling Binh Tay Market and Flower Market, experiencing the local commerce firsthand.

In the evening, enjoy a farewell dinner and cocktail onboard, spending one last night on the ship.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Toum Tiou 2

**Day 9: Depart Ho Chi Minh City**

After breakfast onboard, we'll visit the War Remnants Museum, which offers deep insights into the country's history. Following the tour, we'll transfer to the Liberty Central Saigon Riverside Hotel (17 Ton Duc Thang Street, Ben Nghe Ward, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City) for lunch.

The journey concludes around 2:00 p.m. Please ensure that your departing flight is scheduled no earlier than 5:00 p.m. to allow ample time for transfer to the airport.

Safe travels, and we hope you take away lasting memories of this unforgettable journey through Cambodia and Vietnam!

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch

**\*\*\*VIETNAM EXTENSION\*\*\***

**Day 10 Depart Ho Chi Minh City ~ Da Nang ~ Hoi An**

After breakfast at the hotel, your day begins with a transfer to the airport for your domestic flight from Ho Chi Minh City to Da Nang. Our driver will collect you from the hotel and ensure you arrive at the airport in good time for your early flight.

Upon arrival at Da Nang Airport, you'll be met by our local driver and transferred directly to your hotel in Hoi An. The rest of the day is free to relax or begin exploring the charming streets of this UNESCO World Heritage-listed town at your leisure.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Hoi An Delicacy, 4 Star Hotel, Hoi An

**NOTE:** *This itinerary also runs in reverse, starting in Ho Chi Minh City, ending in Siem Reap. The Vietnam extension will be PRE-CRUISE should you wish to add this on. All inclusions remain the same.*

### Day 11: Hoi An Free Day

Today is yours to enjoy at your own pace in the charming town of Hoi An. Relax by the pool, explore the lantern-lit streets, or unwind at one of the many riverside cafés. For those seeking adventure, we offer two exciting optional tours: the ancient ruins of My Son Holy Land or the breathtaking Ba Na Hills and Golden Bridge.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Hoi An Delicacy, 4 Star Hotel, Hoi An

**OPTIONAL EXCURSION:** My Son Holy Land

Departing at 8:00 AM, this full-day tour takes you 40km southwest to the UNESCO-listed My Son Sanctuary. Often compared to Bagan in Myanmar, this ancient site was the spiritual centre of the Cham civilisation from the 7th to 13th centuries. Explore the impressive ruins with an English-speaking guide and learn about their cultural significance. Enjoy a buffet lunch at a local restaurant before returning to Hoi An in the afternoon. Tour includes transport, guide, entrance fees, lunch, and refreshments.

**OPTIONAL EXCURSION:** Ba Na Hills & Golden Bridge

Begin your full-day adventure at 8:00 AM with a scenic cable car ride to Ba Na Hills. Soar above lush jungle to reach Le Jardin and the remains of colonial-era French villas. Continue to the Fantasy Park, one of the world's largest indoor amusement parks, where select games are included. Enjoy a buffet lunch before reaching the summit of Chua Mountain at 1,487m for sweeping views of Da Nang. The highlight is the stunning Golden Bridge held by giant stone hands. Tour includes transport, guide, cable car tickets, entrance fees, lunch, and refreshments.

### Day 12: Hoi An ~ Da Nang ~ Hanoi

After breakfast at the hotel, our driver will collect you for your transfer to Da Nang Airport. From here, you'll board your flight to Hanoi, Vietnam's vibrant capital.

Upon arrival in Hanoi, you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy at leisure—relax at the hotel or start exploring the lively streets and rich culture of Hanoi on your own.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Hanoi Pearl, 4 Star Hotel, Hanoi

### Day 13: Hanoi ~ Ha Long Bay

Start the day with an early morning pickup from your hotel for the journey through the scenic Vietnamese countryside to the breathtaking Ha Long Bay. Famous for its emerald waters and limestone karsts, this UNESCO World Heritage Site offers some of the most iconic views in Vietnam.

Upon arrival, board your traditional junk boat and enjoy a delicious seafood lunch as you begin cruising through the bay, surrounded by hundreds of towering islets. In the afternoon, take part in a variety of water activities such as swimming, kayaking, or a peaceful rowing boat ride to explore hidden caves and spot playful monkeys on the rocky cliffs.

As the sun sets, unwind with optional squid fishing, stargazing from the deck, or simply relax with fellow travellers over a cold drink. Spend the night onboard in your comfortable private cabin, immersed in the tranquillity of Ha Long Bay.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Le Journey Cruise, 4 Star Cruise

### Day 14: Ha Long Bay ~ Hanoi

This morning, continue your cruise through the breathtaking scenery of Ha Long Bay. One of the highlights is a guided visit to the impressive "Amazing Cave," filled with striking stalagmites and stalactites that create a natural masterpiece.

After the cave visit, return to the boat and enjoy a final buffet lunch on board as you sail back to the harbour. From there, begin the return journey to Hanoi by road, arriving in the late afternoon at approximately 5:00 PM.

The evening is yours to enjoy at leisure. Take the opportunity to explore Hanoi's lively Old Quarter, browse the markets, or sample local street food for dinner.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch

**OVERNIGHT:** Hanoi Pearl, 4 Star Hotel, Hanoi

### Day 15: Hanoi Free Day

After breakfast at the hotel, enjoy a full day at your own pace to explore Hanoi. Wander through the bustling Old Quarter, visit museums, or relax at a local café soaking up the city's unique charm.

For those interested in a deeper cultural experience, an optional **\*\*Hanoi City Tour\*\*** is available. This guided tour offers insight into the city's rich history, including key landmarks such as the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, the Temple of Literature, and the famous One Pillar Pagoda.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Hanoi Pearl, 4 Star Hotel, Hanoi

**OPTIONAL EXCURSION:** Hanoi City Tour

Enjoy a full-day guided tour of Hanoi, starting with a free pick-up from your hotel at 8:00 AM. Begin your day with a visit to the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, where you can learn about the historical and architectural significance of Uncle Ho's final resting place. Nearby, explore Ho Chi Minh's house on stilts and the iconic One Pillar Pagoda, a cultural symbol of Hanoi dating back to 1049. Continue your morning with a visit to Tran Quoc Pagoda, located by the serene West Lake and recognised as one of the oldest pagodas in Vietnam. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, the tour includes a visit to Bat Trang Pottery Village, renowned for its traditional ceramics.

Enjoy lunch at a local Vietnamese restaurant before proceeding to the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology (included on Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays), offering fascinating insights into Vietnam's diverse ethnic groups. The afternoon continues with a stop at the Temple of Literature and Quoc Tu Giam, Vietnam's first national university built in 1070, where you can admire its peaceful gardens and traditional architecture. Then take a scenic drive past Hoan Kiem Lake and visit the Ngoc Son Temple before concluding the day with free time to explore and shop in Hanoi's bustling Old Quarter. The tour finishes around 3:30–4:00 PM, after which you'll return to your hotel.

Breakfast will be provided at your hotel, with lunch included at a local restaurant. Dinner is at your own expense. The tour includes transport by minivan, an English-speaking guide, entrance fees, bottled water, and a refreshing towel.

## Day 16: Depart Hanoi

After breakfast at the hotel, our driver will transfer you to the airport.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

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