



AVG SELECT

12 DAY MEKONG RIVER CRUISE WITH SIEM REAP

12 DAYS

Tour Code: SCVC-12

Siem Reap (3N) - Phnom Penh (2N) - Mekong Cruise (3N) - Saigon (2N)



Overnight on Cruise on Mekong River. Included in the tour is a 3-night luxury Mekong cruise trip from Phnom Penh to Saigon where breath-taking scenery will stay in your memory forever. You will also have a chance to try the menu designed by the Master-chef Luke Nguyen.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hand-picked 5* accommodation at every destination.
- Small group size. Visit the must-see UNESCO Site Angkor Wat Temples in Siem Reap.
- Try to cook your own Khmer cuisine in a cooking course in Phnom Penh.
- Exclusive experience on Jayavarman Luxury Cruise from Cambodia to Vietnam.
- Visit historical sites in Long Tan, Vietnam, where the traces of the Vietnam war are still around.

INCLUSION

- International and domestic flights.
- Free comprehensive travel insurance.
- Express Check-In at all hotels.
- Accommodation sharing double or twin with daily breakfast.
- Meals as per itinerary.
- All Transfers with Air-con Car/Van/Coach.
- Professional English-speaking guides.
- Concierge from AVG Select.
- Visa to Cambodia & Vietnam Visa.
- Tipping for drivers and tour guides.
- Free local SIM card with \$20AUD credit.

EXCLUSION

- Compulsory dinners applied for the nights 24 Dec & 31 Dec.
- Personal expenses such as drink, laundry and souvenirs etc.
- Other services not mentioned in the program.
- Early check-in on the first day and late check-out on last day (see supplement of each hotel).

REMARKS Please be aware that Flight Times, Hotels, Logistical Services and Days of Travel are all subject to availability and modifications outside of our control. When there are cancellations or delays, we will try our best to secure alternative arrangements of similar value to those in booking agreement.



DEPARTURE DATES

Coming soon

SURCHARGES

**All costs are Per Person basis*

- **AUD2,800** for Single Supplement.
- Pre & Post tour Surcharge - **AU\$200** per person. Any other arrangements are additional (i.e accommodation, transfers & meals).



Luxury Jayavarman Cruise, Mekong River

Day 1: Siem Reap Arrival

Welcome to Siem Reap, a gateway to the Angkor Temples! Upon arrival, our tour guide will meet and transfer you to your hotel for check-in. Welcome dinner tonight is hosted in the hotel for the best convenience.

 Dinner.

 Hotel in Siem Reap.

Day 2: Siem Reap - Angkor Temples Complex

Spend a full day discovering the mystical Angkor temples. The morning starts with Angkor Thom, Bayon and the Elephant Terrace. Then, continue to Ta Prohm Monastery. Back to the hotel where you'll ease yourself while avoiding the strong heat at noon. Late afternoon travel by tuk-tuk to visit Angkor Wat, the world heritage site with soaring towers and one of the most amazing man-made monuments in the world. Stay late until sunset then find your way back to the hotel for refreshment followed by dinner at a local restaurant which is served with Apsara show.

 Breakfast, Dinner.

 Hotel in Siem Reap.

Day 3: Siem Reap Insight

Personalize your holiday with a choice of included sightseeing options. Perhaps visit the Tonle Sap floating village which is worldwide famous for its uniqueness or take part in a Sunset Q-Bike Adventure for a deeper insight into the local lifestyles and your trip enhancement.

Option 1: Tonle Sap Lake Tour

Start your trip with a floating village on the Tonle Sap Lake, and as yet bypassed by mass tourism. All the houses are on stilts offering an exceptional natural environment with breathtaking views of floodplains, rice fields and water vistas as far as the eye can see. Walk through the village meeting the locals and a family who raises crocodiles. Afterwards, travel by boat over the canals to a large lake where Vietnamese people live when they are displaced from their homes because of the seasons. Then we return to the hotel for relaxing.

Option 2: Sunset Q-Bike Adventure

Siem Reap attracts us not only with its temples but also its vicinity and the way that the local people live. Let's join us on a Q-bike adventure that is exclusively designed to take you away from the tourist crowds and to picture what authentic Cambodia is. The scenic rice fields, forests and villages will roll out as you are riding through the rural area at Sunset. This tour is a great choice for those who want to explore Cambodia in depth.

 Breakfast.

 Hotel in Siem Reap.

Day 4: Siem Reap - Flight to Phnom Penh - Phnom Penh City Tour

After breakfast, enjoy your free time until transfer to Siem Reap airport for a short flight to Phnom Penh – once called the Oriental Paris. Despite its rapid development, it's retained a lot of its rustic charm and elegance. It is an amazing town to bespeak centuries of incredible history and culture which can still be felt at many street corners. Landing off, pick up and

hotel transfer. This afternoon, we take in everything Phnom Penh has to offer. The tour includes the Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda and Wat Ounalom. Then, enjoy shopping for unique souvenirs at Central Market. Back to the hotel for refreshment followed by a special dinner on a cruise tonight. Dinner tonight is served at a local restaurant.

🍴 Breakfast, Dinner.

🏠 Hotel in Siem Reap.

Day 5: Phnom Penh - Cooking Class

This morning is designed for you to experience a Khmer cooking class. First, start with a visit to a local wet market where the chef explains about different ingredients for daily meals. At the class, you'll be shared the unique techniques to cook some delicious dishes. Sample your effort and your fellow travellers'. In the afternoon, travel to Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, a former school served as Khmer Rouge prison before heading to the Choeng Ek Killing Field and learn about the atrocities that took place here.

🍴 Breakfast, Lunch.

🏠 Hotel in Phnom Penh.

Day 6: Phnom Penh - Mekong Cruise - Tan Chau

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the ship for embarkation. Welcome onboard! Then, start your life onboard with the lecture about Cambodian modern history, held by a professor of the Royal University of Phnom Penh. Definitely, some highlights of this cruise receiving knowledge first hand as our lecturer has studied the subject extensively and personally. The whole afternoon is at your own arrangements. From now on, even the last passenger will turn on his cruise mode and hopefully experience the therapeutic influence that this mighty river radiates. It is time for massages, relaxation on the sun-bed, and private balcony kick-backs - it's time to merge with the river. Some may like to visit the bridge as the captain always has a little story to share about "his" river. Float into a state of mild bliss. Before totally drifting away, do not forget lunchtime around noon. A culinary class is offered in the afternoon to sharpen your knowledge and skills on the local cuisine. Before slumbering in a nap, join our High Tea with coffee and snacks if you like to. We reach the border and finally arrive in Vietnam. From here it is just a short distance to Tan Chau, a pleasant, slow-paced border town with a sizeable Chinese, Kinh and Khmer community. We moor near the city with views on the riverbanks. Dinner will be served soon and you can join our evening cinema with another selected classic movie afterwards.

🍴 Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

🚢 Overnight on Cruise on Mekong River.

Day 7: Tan Chau - My An Hung - Sa Dec

Welcome to the fish sanctuary of Vietnam. Begin your day with a hearty breakfast at the dining hall or in the quiet privacy of your balcony. Brace yourself for a tour around Tan Chau, a pleasant, slow-paced town near the Cambodian border with a sizeable Chinese, Kinh and Khmer community. Once arrived on-shore we hop on "Xe Loi" to explore Tan Chau. A "Xe Loi" is a local vehicle which is still used as a taxi in this region. We slowly move around the streets to see all the workshops, houses and domiciles. Get to feel the laid-back vibes of this place. We stop at the colourful, local market near one of the town's temples. This is the best time to interact with the vendors of this friendly town and make your own bargain experience. We board our local boats and cruise along floating houses until we finally reach a floating fish farm. This region is the source of a fish production that is sold all over the world. We get an exclusive insight into how fish farming works. Back on board before lunch is served, you may like to pamper yourself with some spa treatments or take a dip into the pool on the sun deck. Our expert guides offer a presentation on the "Life on the Mekong Delta" as the ship continues to My An Hung near the Sa Dec province.

Before we arrive to mingle with fellow passengers and share some stories, we will set off for the My An Hung Village. In the village, we receive wonderful insights into the private household of a local family. We are allowed to visit their vegetable garden and access the seasonal vegetable fields via crossing a monkey bridge. We are also invited to their house for a Vietnamese tea tasting. Vietnamese tea is often bitter and locals sweeten it with honey. The honey is produced by the family, a true delicacy in this region. We are offered fruits - juicy, fresh, and right from the tree. A local artist group performs a typical traditional dragon dance while we munch on those natural "vitamins bombs". As the sun sets and the light bathes everything golden, we settle on a riverbank gathering with cocktails to recap the day. Back on the ship, we cruise downstream the Mekong. Refresh yourself and get ready for dinner. The ship moors mid-river near Sa Dec.

🍴 Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

🚢 Overnight on Cruise on Mekong River.

Day 8: Binh Thanh Island - Cai Be - My Tho

In the morning we arrive at the island of Binh Thanh. We embark on a local boat and head towards Binh Thanh Island. Binh Thanh is one of the larger islands in the vast stream of the Mekong. Some communities have settled here and made their living by growing water hyacinths. We exclusively visit one of those untouched areas. By wandering through the village we get a deep understanding of the native life. But moreover, we can follow the whole process of their traditional mat making.

You can try weaving yourself which is still done manually. We will also meet an old local couple who share their story on this island. They are happy for any chit-chat with you. Back on board lunch is served and you have some time to leisurely spend onboard while we cruise along the Mekong.

In the early afternoon, we arrive in Cai Be, a charming town which is famous for its Catholic French church and their manufacturing of traditional crafts and food products. The floating market of Cai Be is getting smaller every year since trading on the water is shifting more and more to the modern central markets. We can still see some boat to boat trading of local goods, such as fruits and agricultural products. Our guide will explain all the particulars of this long-lasting trading culture. Each boat has a special marker that lets buyers know what goods they are selling. Afterwards, we go on-shore to visit a workshop where we learn how rice paste, rice paper, rice cookies and rice wine is manufactured. Cai Be and its surrounding areas are covered by palm trees and hence the region is also famous for the production of coconut candies. The city is crisscrossed by many water canals. By local boat, we will explore the lush and green canal network and observe the farmers working in the fields. As the sun sets, our crew invites you to a farewell event. Before dinner, you can enjoy dances and music together with the crew. The ships moors.

 Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

 Overnight on Cruise in Mekong.

Day 9: Ship Disembarkation - Saigon City Tour

After breakfast, disembarkation for a short transfer to Saigon. On arrival, enjoy a sightseeing tour of Ho Chi Minh City with highlights such as Notre Dame Cathedral, Post Office, War Remnant Museum and soaking up the atmosphere at Ben Thanh market, one of Ho Chi Minh's liveliest areas.

This evening we'll have dinner at a local restaurant with matching wine menu designed by celebrity chef Luke Nguyen.

 Breakfast, Dinner.

 Hotel in Saigon.

Day 10: Saigon - Long Tan Tour

After breakfast, travel by bus to visit the place that served as the Australian Military Base during the Vietnam War, explore the Long Phuoc Tunnels, a byzantine maze of underground passages, chambers and booby traps used by the Viet Cong during the war as their hideout. Then, attend a memorial service at Long Tan Cross. The tour includes a local lunch on the way.

Farewell dinner tonight is served onboard Saigon River Cruise which offers an opportunity to witness another side of Saigon. The city is not only a bustling metropolis but also a romantic land.

 Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

 Hotel in Saigon.

Day 11: Saigon - Depart

After breakfast, enjoy your free time until transfer to airport for flight home.

 Breakfast.

 N/A.

Day 12: Arrive Home

Arrive home today.

 N/A.

 N/A.

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