

Cruise Phnom Penh to Angkor Wat

9 Days | Phnom Penh to Siem Reap



Cruise from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap along the Mekong and the Tonle River, experiencing the delights of rural Cambodia en route. Explore the capital Phnom Penh, discover the spectacular water-world of Kampong Chhnang and the Great Tonle Sap Lake, before taking in spectacular Angkor Wat.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Phnom Penh - visit the National Museum of Fine Arts, the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda, Toul Sleng (Security Prison - S21) and the Killing Fields
- Cruise the Mekong and Tonle Sap River for four nights on board one of the finest Mekong River Cruisers
- Practice Tai Chi at sunrise on the sun deck
- Angkor Ban village - step back in time on a visit to this unspoiled rural community
- Mekong - meet the children at a local school, visit the pre-Angkorian temple of Wat Hanchey and the colourful monastery of Wat Nokor

- Koh Oknha Tey Island - tour the island by Tuk Tuk and learn how silk is processed at a local workshop
- Kampong Chhnang - discover Cambodia's wonderful "water world" with its floating villages
- Tonle Sap Lake - cruise across Asia's largest fresh water lake
- Angkor Temple Complex - marvel at legendary Angkor Wat, Ta Prohm, and the temples of Angkor Thom
- Siem Reap - independently explore this charming town

What's Included

- 8 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 4 dinners
- 4 nights 4 star hotels
- 4 nights on board the Jayavarman River Cruiser, on a full board basis with drinking water, coffee/tea included, taxes, fuel, river pilots and port dues
- Airport arrival transfer on day 1 and departure transfer on day 9
- Group shore-excursions to Phnom Penh, Angkor Ban, Koh Oknha Tey Island
- Full day tour of Angkor Temples in Siem Reap.
- All entrance fees
- All transfers and transportation in air-conditioned vehicles
- English speaking local guides for scheduled sightseeing

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas.
- Tipping - is an entirely personal gesture. For the River Cruiser gratuities we recommend budgeting 8-10 USD per passenger per day.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Phnom Penh

Welcome to Cambodia. On arrival in Phnom Penh, you'll be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Overnight - Phnom Penh

Day 2 : Phnom Penh city tour



Phnom Penh - Mekong River Cruising. Transfer to your river cruise boat this morning before embarking on a tour of Phnom Penh. Your first stop will be the Killings fields, a sombre yet important reminder and memorial to those that lost their lives during the Khmer Rouge dictatorship. You then visit the former

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prison of Tuol Sleng or 'S21' which is now a museum dedicated to the genocide that took place in Cambodia.

After lunch explore more of the capital, starting with the Royal Palace. A golden shimmering example of Khmer architecture, the royal palace is a complex of buildings set among well kept gardens. Make your way back to the cruise boat aboard a 'cyclo', taking you through the bustling streets of downtown Phnom Penh.

This evening before enjoying a sumptuous barbecue dinner onboard, you'll have the opportunity to here a captivating talk about the modern history of Cambodia from a local university professor. **Overnight - River Cruise** (B, L, D)

Day 3 : Kampong Chhnang



LOW WATER SEASON (mid-November - end of July)

Phnom Penh - Kampong Chhnang - Tonle River. The ship will depart early this morning as you sail towards Kampong Tralach on Cambodia's narrow Tonle River through much jungle like scenery. Reaching the shore by boat you'll visit the 'Green School', afterwards return to the river and climb on board an ox cart for a closer glimpse of river life.

Back on board a hearty lunch is served as the ship cruises towards Kampong Chhnang - the water world of Cambodia. Everything here is built on sticks - balanced on the water rich soil. Later you will head back on land and take a mini bus to a nearby village for a walking tour and introduction into Khmer style pottery and the production of palm sugar. Tonight the ship will moor mid-river in the Tonle area.

HIGH WATER SEASON (August to mid-November)

Phnom Penh - Kampong Cham. The cruiser will depart early this morning as you travel towards the small village of Angkor Ban. Famed for its unspoiled community, having escaped the destruction of the Khmer Rouge, you'll have a sense of being transported back in time as you explore this warm and welcoming village.

This afternoon, continue down the Mekong before paying a visit to a local school to understand more about the education of Cambodian children. Next, visit Wat Hanchey, built in the 7th century this small complex sits upon hill with breathtaking views down the Mekong. Another temple is located nearby, the colourful monastery of Wat Nokor will showcase the life and worship of the local monks. Return to the boat this evening for dinner. **Overnight - River Cruise** (B, L, D)

Day 4 : Koh Oknha Tey



LOW WATER SEASON (mid-November - end of July)

Tonle River - Kampong Cham. This morning you'll sail from towards the mighty Mekong passing the confluence at Phnom Penh. Arriving at Koh Oknha Tey in the centre of the Mekong - a tuk tuk takes you around the island - famous for its manufacture of high class silk and you'll stop at a silk making workshop. Back on board before lunch your expert guides will teach you about the Geography of the Mekong and the Tonle Sap' giving you an insightful presentation of your current location.

After lunch the ship continues to the quaint village of Angkor Ban - famous for beautiful traditional houses. Later on you'll enjoy a cocktail party on the riverbank. Dinner is

served onboard as your ship cruises to Kampong Cham for the night.

HIGH WATER SEASON (August to mid-November)

Kampong Cham - Kampong Chhnang. Enjoy the views of the Mekong at breakfast this morning as you voyage to the island of Koh Oknha Tey. Renowned for its high quality silk products, explore the island by tuk tuk and learn the fascinating process of silk production, from silkworm to final garment.

After lunch a monks blessing will take place on board the boat, with the intention of casting away the bad spirits and delivering prosperity. Later, the boat will reach the confluence of the Mekong and Tonle River before heading through the jungle like landscape on the way to Kampong Chhnang. On the banks of the river see people going about their daily lives and you may be greeted by excitable and friendly local children. The last point of call for the day is the local Green School. **Overnight - River Cruise** (B, L, D)

Day 5 : Kampong Chhnang



LOW WATER SEASON (mid-November - end of July)

The first stop of the day is Wat Hanchey - a per-Angkorian temple built back in the 7th century - sitting on top of a hill it offers spectacular views across the Mekong. This afternoon you'll visit the colourful monastery of Wat Nokor. Whilst here there is the opportunity to see the bamboo bridge that connects the island to the mainland. This is only possible in the low water season and the bridge is rebuilt every year when the water level drops again.

Next up there is a visit to a local school to learn more about the new young generation of Cambodian children. This evening is out

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last night onboard and it is celebrated with a farewell dinner and dancing with the crew.

HIGH WATER SEASON (August to mid-November)

Kampong Chhnang - Tonle Lake. After a morning Tai Chi class the boat will sail into Kampong Chhnang, an incredible village of houses and businesses perched on sticks in the river. Joining a smaller boat, cruise around this fascinating floating village before embarking on a tour of a local community which specialises in Khmer pottery.

This afternoon enjoy lunch on board as the boat meanders down the Tonle River before reaching the Great Tonle Sap Lake. This awe-inspiring mass of water is the largest fresh water lake in Asia and provides the setting for a relaxing high tea this afternoon. **Overnight - River Cruise** (B, L, D)

Day 6 : Tonle Sap Lake



LOW WATER SEASON (mid-November - end of July)

After your last breakfast on board it is time to disembark. Your next stop is Siem Reap and a road transfer (4.5 hours approx) takes you there and arrival into the town is expected in the early afternoon. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

HIGH WATER SEASON (August to mid-November)

Mekong River Cruising - Siem Reap. This morning the river cruise makes its final journey through Tonle Sap Lake before arriving into Siem Reap. Tonle Sap Lake is the life blood for many Cambodians and reportedly has more fish than any other lake in the world. As you disembark the cruise boat in Siem Reap you'll be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest

of the day is at leisure to explore this pretty town. **Overnight - Siem Reap** (B)

Day 7 : Angkor Wat



Today you will visit the awe inspiring Angkorian temples that have made Siem Reap famous. Starting with the ancient city of Angkor Thom, you will marvel at the Bayon temple, constructed in the 12th century this temple is amazing example of bas-reliefs, particularly in the east and south gallery.

Next you'll continue to Ta Prohm temple which, unlike other temples that have seen extensive renovation, has been left to the ravages of nature and is an atmospheric maze of trees growing out of temple ruins.

This afternoon you'll visit the architectural master piece that is Angkor Wat, famous the world over for its amazing size and grandeur. Taking close to 30 years to build and covering an area of 81 hectares, it is one of the largest religious monuments in the world. **Overnight - Siem Reap** (B)

Day 8 : Free time in Siem Reap



Today is free for you to further explore the surrounding area of Siem Reap. **Overnight - Siem Reap** (B)

Day 9 : Siem Reap

Arrangements conclude after breakfast and onward departure transfer to the airport.(B)

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

Queen Grand Boutique Hotel

The perfect blend of traditional architecture and contemporary style, the Queen Grand Boutique Hotel is appropriately situated near to the Royal Palace. Guest rooms are designed with a touch of Khmer style but with a modern flare. The hotel also benefits from an onsite restaurant and bar, rooftop jacuzzi and Sky Bar. Located very close to the iconic Royal Palace, one of Phnom Penh's top sights.



RV Jahan Cruise

Named after the former Indian emperor Shah Jahan, the Jahan is one of the Heritage Line's most romantic cruisers. The superior staterooms are designed with warming red tones complimented with stunning white furnishings. All staterooms have private balconies and queen size beds. The Jahan cruise boat benefits from a whole host of excellent amenities on board including the stylish East India Club, a great place to relax and sip a delicious beverage and the elegant Observatory. The boat also has an onsite Apsara Spa and outdoor pool.

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RV Jayavarman Cruise

Named after Angkor's most highly respected kings, the Jayavarman tastefully combines the art deco charm of France in the 1930s with the enchantment of Indochina. The en suite cabins are beautifully designed with traditional wooden carvings, stunning artwork as well as full length windows opening onto private balconies. The boat itself benefits from a number of bars, restaurants and onboard Aspara Spa as well as an outdoor pool to relax by as the boat cruises along. The friendly and professional staff look forward to greeting you on board.



Saem Siemreap Hotel

Just a short walk from the famous Pub Street of Siem Reap, the Saem Siemreap Hotel offers beautiful accommodation in a tranquil setting. Guest rooms are tastefully decorated with hard wood floors and contemporary en suite facilities. The hotel benefits from complimentary Wi-Fi as well as an outdoor pool and a number of restaurants and bars including the Silver Restaurant serving up a delicious array of Asian and Continental dishes. The Saem is located just a 5 minute drive from the famous Old Market in the garden village of Sala Kanseng.



Health Requirements - Cambodia

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Cambodia from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide Tetanus, Typhoid, Hep A, Diphtheria and Polio are recommended.

There is the risk of malaria in parts of Cambodia so it is very important to check with your doctor before you go, to see whether malarial medication is required for the areas you are visiting. Yellow fever is not present in Cambodia but a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from those travelling from an infected region.

Water

Tap water in Cambodia is not considered safe to drink. It's recommended to only drink bottled mineral water, which is readily available in hotels, shops and restaurants.

Climate

Cambodia has a tropical monsoon climate with two seasons; Rainy season from May to November, when the countryside is lush and green, and dry season from late November to April, when there are long days of glorious sunshine and clear skies. Temperatures in Cambodia remain fairly constant and warm throughout the year, apart from in the north, when winters (December to March) are generally colder.

Time & Voltage

Cambodia is 7 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time(GMT).

The voltage in Cambodia is 230v. In Cambodia 3 types of plugs are commonly accepted: 2 flat prong plugs (type A), the 2 round pin european plug (type C) and many of the new 4 and 5 star hotels use the British standard 3-pin plug (type G). To cover all bases, it is best to pack an international travel adaptor!

Currency - Cambodia

The official currency of Cambodia is the Cambodia Riel but USD is also widely

accepted and sometimes preferred in larger stores and supermarkets.

Pound Sterling, US Dollars, Euro and other major currencies can be exchanged in Cambodia at various bureau de changes in major cities and towns. However foreign currency is also widely accepted and often desired more so it can give the shopper more buying power. ATMs can be found in all larger towns and cities and some five star hotels. We recommend you take a mixture of cash (preferably USD) and credit/ debit cards for ATM's. It's advisable to request bank notes in smaller denominations, as it can sometimes be hard to get change from large notes and smaller notes are handy for smaller purchases and gratuities.

Traveller's Cheques are not recommended as they're often difficult to exchange and incur high fees.

Essential Packing

- Lightweight cotton garments. Ladies will need to have their shoulders and legs (to below the knee) covered when visiting the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh and Angkor Wat. Please pack accordingly
- Comfortable walking shoes in addition to flip flogs/ thongs
- DEET based mosquito repellent & antihistamine cream
- Bring a 2 flat prong (type A) and a 2 round pin (type C) electrical adaptors. A universal adaptor will cover all bases
- Lightweight, fold up raincoat/ poncho/ umbrella
- Two spare passport photos & a photocopy of your passport
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume and torch

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Entrance Fees

Entrance fees to most sites are not included, although reasonably priced. The entrance fee amount is noted under exclusions on page one of this document and a breakdown of the entrance fees is provided upon arrival on the Welcome Letter.

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For tours starting in Vietnam we collect entrance fees on Day 2 of the tour. All funds collected in Vietnam are payable in either US dollars (USD) or Vietnamese dong (VND).

Multi country tours starting in Laos - please note if you are travelling on our Laos to Vietnam, Inside Indochina or Indochina Discovery tour your entrance fees will be split into two separate payments. Entrance fees for Laos will be collected on day 2 of the tour in Vientiane and entrance fees for Vietnam/Cambodia/Thailand will be collected on day 8 in Hanoi.

Tipping Kitty

At the start of your tour, we take a small tipping kitty (the amount is noted under exclusions) from all tour participants to cover tips throughout your holiday. This saves you the hassle of knowing when and how much to tip bellhops, luggage handlers, bus drivers, train conductors and other support staff throughout the tour.

This amount does not include a tip for your tour guides. For a job well done, we would suggest USD \$3 - 6 per person per day. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

Multi country tours starting in Laos - please note if you are travelling on our Laos to Vietnam, Inside Indochina or Indochina Discovery tour your tipping kitty will be split into two separate payments. Tips for Laos will be collected on day 2 of the tour in Vientiane and tips for Vietnam/Cambodia/Thailand will be collected on day 8 in Hanoi.

Groups & Guides

The longest Signature Tour we offer in Southeast Asia is our Indochina Discovery 23 day tour. All other Signature Tours we offer (with the exception of the family tours) are sectors of this larger tour. The longest Budget Tour we offer in Southeast Asia is our Hanoi to Bangkok Tour 19 day tour, all other Budget Tours are sectors of this longer tour. As our tours are modular you may have travellers join you part way through your holiday (in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City or Phnom Penh on Signature Tours or in Ho Chi Minh City our

Budget Tours). There will also be travellers who end their tour when you continue on.

Guides:

In Laos a Lao national guide escorts our tours from Vientiane through to Luang Prabang and in Vietnam a Vietnamese national guide escorts our tours from Hanoi through to Ho Chi Minh City.

In Cambodia our tours have two guides - a Cambodian national guide in Phnom Penh and a specialist regional guide in Siem Reap.

Our tours that end in Bangkok are not fully escorted for the Thailand sector. On our Signature Tours there is a local Thai guide for the Bangkok city tour. If you are travelling on a Budget Tour a local guide will meet you at the Cambodia border and escort you to our hotel, then you will be unescorted for the rest of your stay in Bangkok.

What to Pack

- Lightweight cotton garments. Ladies may need to have their shoulders and legs (to below the knee) covered when visiting certain sites, so please pack accordingly.
- Comfortable walking shoes in addition to flip flogs/ thongs
- DEET based mosquito repellent & antihistamine cream
- Electrical adaptors. A universal adaptor will cover all bases
- Lightweight, fold up raincoat/ poncho/ umbrella
- Two spare passport photos & a photocopy of your passport
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swimming costume and torch
- Sleep sheet if taking an overnight sleeper train in Vietnam. These also can be easily purchased in Hanoi at a cost of USD\$5
- An overnight bag, if your tour includes a night board a Junk boat in Halong Bay. As we will be returning to Hanoi it is not essential that you take your big bag/ suitcase with you.

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