

Cruise Saigon to Angkor Wat

11 Days | Ho Chi Minh City to Siem Reap



Cruise the Mekong River on this 11 day journey through Vietnam and Cambodia. Experience the hustle and bustle of Ho Chi Minh City before taking in colourful floating markets and local communities of the Mekong Delta. Crossing into Cambodia travel on to the capital Phnom Penh, marvel at Tonle Sap and gaze in wonder at spectacular Angkor Wat.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Mekong - Meet the children at a local school, visit the pre-Angkorian temple of Wat Hanchey and the colourful monastery of Wat Nokor
- Learn to cook tasty local cuisine at a culinary class on board
- Practice Tai Chi at sunrise on the sun deck
- Cruise the Mekong and Tonle Rivers for seven nights on board one of the finest River Cruisers
- Angkor Temple Complex - Explore Ta Prohm, legendary Angkor Wat and the temples of Angkor Thom
- Angkor Ban Village - Step back in time on a visit to this unspoiled rural community

- Kampong Chhnang - Discover Cambodia's wonderful "water world" with its floating villages
- Tonle Sap Lake - Cruise across Asia's largest fresh water lake (high water season only)
- Phnom Penh - Visit the National Museum of Fine Arts, the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda, Toul Sleng (Security Prison - S21) and the Killing Fields
- Tan Chau - Explore the town on a traditional xelois, visit a local market and take a boat ride around floating houses and a fish farm
- Sa Dec - Take a traditional sampan to Binh Thanh Island
- Cai Be - Visit Cai Be's colourful floating market and cottage industries
- Saigon - Independently explore the city

What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 7 lunches and 7 dinners
- 3 nights 4 star hotels
- 7 nights on board the Jahan or Jayavarman River Cruiser on a full board basis. Inclusive - drinking water, coffee/tea, taxes, fuel, river pilots and port dues
- Group shore excursions - Cai Be floating market, Sa Dec, sampan tour of Binh Thanh, Tan Chau, Phnom Penh, Angkor Ban and Koh Oknha Tey Island
- Full day tour - Angkor Temples in Siem Reap
- Entrance fees to all included sites

- English speaking local guides for scheduled sightseeing
- Airport arrival transfer on day 1 and departure transfer on day 11
- All transfers and transportation in air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Tipping for your River Cruiser staff. We recommend you allow USD\$8-10 per day, per traveller. Tipping is an entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Ho Chi Minh City



Arrive in Ho Chi Minh City and transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is free for you to explore at your own pace. **Overnight - Ho Chi Minh City**

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Day 2 : Mekong River Cruise



Ho Chi Minh City - Mekong River Cruising. This morning travel 70km south to My Tho to board the luxurious Jahan or Jayavarman river cruiser for your seven night cruise along the mighty Mekong River. Whilst the boat plies the Mekong you can admire the views from the deck, sip cocktails in the bar or opt for a dip in the pool. A sumptuous lunch and dinner will be served on board before the cruiser docks near Cai Be this evening. Cai Be is a charming small town, famous for its floating market and manufacturing of traditional crafts and food products. **Overnight - River Cruise** (B, L, D)

Day 3 : Cai Be & Sa Dec

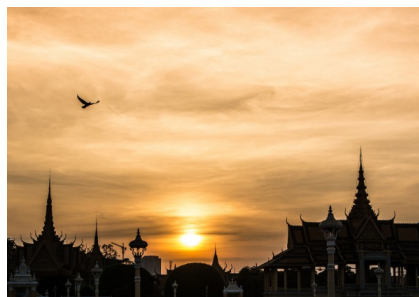


Start the day with an invigorating Tai Chi class on the sun deck, a past time enjoyed by many in Asia. After breakfast head on to land to visit the famous Cai Be floating market. From here you'll visit a workshop to learn how rice paste, rice paper and rice wine is made. Returning to your cruiser, journey onward to Sa Dec, from here you'll transfer on to a traditional sampan to tour Binh Thanh Island. One of the larger Mekong Islands, Binh Thanh is home to communities who have settled and make their living by growing water hyacinths. Wander through the village and gain an insight into rural life in the Mekong.

This afternoon you can opt to pamper yourself with a spa treatment or take a dip in our pool on the sun deck. A presentation will be offered

this evening about life on the Mekong Delta. Tonight the cruiser moors near Tan Chau. After dinner tonight you can join an evening cinema session (offered each night) featuring some classic movies. **Overnight - River Cruise** (B, L, D)

Day 4 : Tan Chau



Mekong River Cruising - Phnom Penh. This morning start the day with a visit to sleepy town of Tan Chau, which you'll explore from the back of 'xelois' - a local vehicle used as taxis in the region. Here you'll visit the colourful local market near one of the ancient temples, try your hand at bartering with some of the local vendors. Next, board a local boat to see the floating houses located here before reaching a floating fish farm. This area is a large source of fish production which is sold all over the world.

Back on board the cruiser your journey continues to the Vietnamese-Cambodian border. Relax and enjoy a fascinating and leisurely cruise through the deep Cambodia countryside towards Phnom Penh. A culinary class is offered this afternoon, where you can learn to cook tasty local cuisine. Dinner is served before the cruiser docks in Phnom Penh and this evening you're free to head out and explore the Cambodian capital. **Overnight - River Cruise** (B, L, D)

Day 5 : Phnom Penh



Nestled on the banks of the Mekong River, the vibrant capital of Cambodia is famed for its impressive colonial architecture and historic sites. Enjoy the highlights of Phnom Penh as you embark on a full day of sightseeing today. This morning you will learn about the horrors that were faced by Cambodians during the brutal regime of the 'Khmer Rouge' and their leader Pol Pot. First stop is the Killing Fields, where over 100,000 victims were executed, before continuing to Toul Sleng (Security Prison - S21), a school that was gruesomely transformed into a torture chamber.

This afternoon visit the National Museum of Fine Arts, with its impressive collection of Khmer sculptures, continue to the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda, gaze upon the lavishly decorated buildings – with floors paved with silver tiles and statues of Buddha encrusted with thousands of diamonds, a true sight to behold. **Overnight - River Cruise** (B, L, D)

Day 6 : 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 local Green School.

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

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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 7 : Koh Oknha Tey Island



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

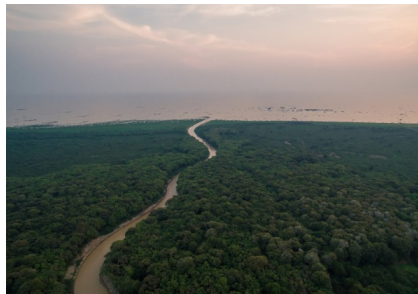
traditional houses. Later on you'll enjoy a cocktail party on the riverbank. Dinner is served onboard as your ship cruises to Kampong Cham for the night.

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 8 : Kampong Cham



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

The first stop of the day is Wat Hanchey - a pre-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 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 9 : Siem Reap



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

Kampong Cham - Siem Reap. After your last breakfast on board it is time to disembark. Your next stop is Siem Reap and a 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)

Tonle Lake - 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

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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 10 : Angkor Wat



Today enjoy a full day of sightseeing at the incredible Angkor Complex. The first stop is the ancient city of Angkor Thom, the centre piece, the Bayon temple, was constructed in the 12th century and is an amazing example of bas-reliefs, particularly in the east and south gallery. At Angkor Thom you'll also visit Baphuon Temple and the Terraces of the Elephants & the Leper King. Next continue to Ta Prohm temple, also known as 'Tomb-Raider Temple', which is a maze of atmospheric temples, with trees and other foliage intertwined with the crumbling walls.

This afternoon visit spectacular Angkor Wat, a temple that needs little introduction. One of the most iconic temples in the world it was built by Suryavarman II and was completed during the 12th century. It is one of the most phenomenal devotions to a god ever conceived. **Overnight - Siem Reap (B)**

Day 11 : 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.

Liberty Central Hotel

The brilliantly located Liberty Central is a modern hotel with stylish, well-appointed rooms and suites and a good range of facilities and amenities. The Central Restaurant offers Western, Asian and Vietnamese specialities and the hotel's health centre, spa and pool are ideal for a spot of rest and relaxation. Guests can enjoy coffee and freshly baked pastries at the Bistro Bar.



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.



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 Apsara 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.



Essential packing

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit www.worldclimate.com to get an idea of what the weather will be like on your holiday.

- 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 and antihistamine cream
- Bring a 2 flat prong (type A) and a 2 round pin (type C) electrical adaptors - a universal adaptor is best
- Lightweight, fold up raincoat/poncho/umbrella

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- Your Tour Voucher, two spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport photos and photocopy of your passport
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume and torch

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Cambodia Country Guide

Visas & passports

Visa requirements are subject to change and visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Cambodia.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book all services. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. For information about visas, head to www.onthegotours.com/Cambodia/Visas

What to expect in Cambodia

Please visit www.onthegotours.com/Cambodia/Travel-tips-and-useful-info for local customs, currency, WiFi and other helpful information to prepare you for your holiday.

Health requirements & water

You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling.

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.

Airline luggage allowance

If your tour includes international or domestic flights within the region please be mindful that the free baggage allowance for Economy class travel is strictly 20kg and 1 piece of hand luggage up to 6kg. Any additional weight is

charged at a per kilo rate. You may wish to bear this in mind whilst shopping.

Vietnam Country Guide

Welcome to Vietnam - Arrival transfer

A complimentary airport arrival transfer is provided on our Signature Range Tours, Private Tours and Short Stays if you are arriving on day 1 or you have booked pre tour accommodation with us. An arrival transfer is not included on our Essentials Range tours*.

Arrival procedure for Hanoi - Noi Bai International Airport and Ho Chi Minh City - Tan Son Nhat International Airport. Upon arrival, please proceed to the immigration counter and pay the visa stamping fee of USD\$25 (if applicable). After collecting your luggage proceed to the arrival hall and go to the meeting point detailed on your Tour Voucher.

If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative (after waiting 20 minutes) or your flight is delayed, please call or send a text message (standard text message, not Messenger or WhatsApp) to the emergency contact number as stated on your Tour Voucher.

Please note: If arriving prior to 9am on day 1 (essentially on a flight that arrives very, very early in the morning) you will need to purchase a night of pre-tour accommodation to save you waiting until standard hotel check in time which is generally 2pm. Breakfast is included with our pre tour accommodation rates.

***Essentials Tours: Please note, airport transfers are NOT included on our budget Essentials Range of tours, please make your own way to the start hotel noted on your Tour Voucher.** Transfers can be booked upon request for an additional fee, please contact us for rates.

Visas & passports

Visa requirements are subject to change and visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6

months from your planned date of departure from Vietnam.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book all services. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. For information about visas, head to www.onthegotours.com/Vietnam/Visas

Health requirements & water

You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling.

Water

The tap water in Vietnam is generally considered safe to drink, but as a precaution against stomach upsets you may want to drink bottled mineral water, which is readily available from shops, hotels and restaurants.

What to expect in Vietnam

Please visit www.onthegotours.com/Vietnam/Travel-tips-and-useful-info for local customs, currency, WiFi and other helpful information to prepare you for an enjoyable holiday.

Airline luggage allowance

If your tour includes international or domestic flights within the region please be mindful that the free baggage allowance for Economy class travel is strictly 20kg and 1 piece of hand luggage up to 6kg. Any additional weight is charged at a per kilo rate. You may wish to bear this in mind whilst shopping.

Trains in Vietnam

It's not the Orient Express, but Vietnam's Reunification Express. On a number of our group tours we include an overnight train journey on the Reunification Express Railway Line between Hanoi and Hue and on our budget Essentials Range tours we include a second overnight train journey from Danang to Mui Ne. The particular SE series train that we use is the highest class of train available in Vietnam. It's titled as being the nation's fastest train; though by international standards it's quite the opposite. Nevertheless, our journey

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between Hanoi and Hue takes approximately 14 hours and travellers are accommodated in 4 berth 'Soft Sleeper' cabins.

Aboard each wagon are 9 compartments that comprise of 4 bunks per compartment. 4 persons of mixed sex share one compartment. You may be sharing with people from your tour group, other tourists or Vietnamese people. Who you will share your cabin with is ultimately dependent upon how the Vietnamese Railways Corporation configures the bookings.

Cabins onboard are comfortable though not comparable to European standards. A western style toilet (with a varying degree of cleanliness) is located at either end of the wagon. Air-conditioning (not always operational in the summer) and lighting are controlled from inside the cabin, which is also lockable. Luggage can be stored in a compartment under the bottom bunk. Linen and a pillow are provided though we strongly recommend that you bring your own sleep sheet (easily purchased in Hanoi at a cost of USD\$5). The cleanliness of the train varies according to wagons assigned to the journey for that particular day. Some wagons are spotlessly clean whilst others can be unclean and should have been decommissioned long ago. Irrespective of the particular wagon, they all have large clear glass windows that allow for uninterrupted views of stunning landscapes and never ending rice paddy fields.

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