VIETNAM & CAMBODIA

SIEM REAP, A MEKONG RIVER CRUISE and SAIGON



The wonders of Southeast Asia

abound with centuries of history, and fascinating culture. Originally a part of French Indochina, Cambodia and Vietnam became the colonial heart of France's pre-war economic development. Today, the French influence is unmistakable, but the local culture shines through in the ornate temples and age-old traditions. This exciting journey takes you to Siem Reap, Cambodia, where you can stand among the spectacular Angkor temples, and the Vietnamese capital of Saigon (officially Ho Chi Minh City), where you will explore the city and its historic landmarks. Cruise the Mekong River aboard the luxurious Mekong Navigator to visit rural towns and villages as well as Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the **Mekong River** with stops in **Vietnam** and **Cambodia** aboard the exclusively chartered **Mekong Navigator**.
- Enjoy a series of included excursions led by expert local guides.
- Discover the temples of **Angkor**, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Explore the highlights of **Saigon**, including the **Cu Chi Tunnels**.
- In Phnom Penh, tour its highlights by cyclo and learn about the troubled history of Cambodia.
- Visit Khmer homes and local schools to learn about the people and rural life
- Visit **Siem Riep**, selected by readers of Travel + Leisure as their third-favorite city of 2015.

INCLUDED FEATURES

Accommodations

- Three nights in Siem Reap, Cambodia, at the deluxe Sofitel Angkor Phokeethra Golf and Spa Resort.
- **Seven nights** aboard the luxurious **Mekong Navigator**.
- Three nights in Saigon, Vietnam, at the deluxe Caravelle Saigon.

Transportation

 All deluxe motor coach transfers in the Land/Cruise Program itinerary and baggage handling on these transfers and the flight are included.

Activities and Events

- Informative educational programs presented by local experts will enhance your insight into the region.
- All excursions as outlined in your program itinerary.
- Personal VOX listening device to hear every word from your expert English-speaking guides.
- Attend a Welcome Reception and Dinner.
- Gather for a Farewell Dinner.

Extensive Meal Program

- Enjoy 13 breakfasts, nine lunches and nine dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Sample authentic regional specialties during select meals at featured local restaurants.
- Take advantage of leisure time to try the local cuisine independently.

MANY INCLUDED EXTRAS

- Consultation services of a dedicated Passenger Service Representative prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced Travel
 Director throughout your stay.
- **Tipping** of excursion guides and drivers.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in planning.
- Complimentary travel wallet.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

DAYS 1 & 2 ~ IN TRANSIT

Depart for Siem Reap, Cambodia.* Depending on your itinerary, you may depart today or tomorrow. Cross the international date line.

* Provided for AHI FlexAir participants.

DAY 3 ~ SIEM REAP

Upon arrival, transfer* to the Sofitel Angkor Phokeethra Golf and Spa Resort. Join a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

DAY 4 ~ ANGKOR

Excursion: *Angkor Wat.* Visit the iconic Angkor Wat temple complex.

DAY 5 ~ ANGKOR

Excursion: *Ta Prohm.* The Ta Prohm temples have been left in their natural state in the jungle.

DAY 6 ~ ANGKOR/KAMPONG CHAM

Excursion: *Angkor Thom.* Explore Angkor Thom, ancient center of the Khmer civilization.

Embark the Mekong Navigator in Kampong Cham.

Celebrate the beginning of your cruise at a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

DAY 7 ~ KAMPONG CHAM

Excursion: *Wat Hanchey*. Enjoy a discussion with local students and their school principal. Later, walk to the wat, a hilltop pagoda overlooking the river. Excursion: *Kampong Cham*. Visit the Monastery of Phnom Pros and Phnom Sre and a 12th-century temple complex.

DAY 8 ~ KAMPONG CHHNANG

Explore the Tonle Sap River, which meets the Mekong at Phnom Penh. **Excursion:** *Kampong Chhnang.* Take a sampan ride through this floating village. See fishing villages, fish farms and markets for a glimpse of local life along the Tonle Sap.

DAY 9 ~ PHNOM PENH Educational Focus: *The Politics of Cambodia*.

Excursion: *Phnom Penh.* Board a cyclo for a tour of Phnom Penh, including the Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda and National Museum. Enjoy a folk-dancing performance onboard the ship.

DAY 10 ~ PHNOM PENH Excursion: *The Killing Fields*.

Learn of Cambodia's troubled past with a visit to Choueng Ek Memorial at the Killing Fields and the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum.

DAY 11 ~ TAN CHAU

Cross the Vietnamese border.

Excursion: *Tan Chau.* Ride in a sampan to a Cao Dai temple. Board a tuk tuk and ride to a family-owned mat workshop. Visit a fish farm and a village a glimpse of local life.

DAY 12 ~ SA DEC/CAI BE

Excursion: *Sa Dec.* Observe daily life during a sampan ride to Sa Dec. Visit a brick factory to learn about this local industry and the house of Hyun Thuy Le, who inspired novelist Marguerite Duras to write "L'Amant."

Excursion: *Cai Be.* Ride a sampan through the harbor. Visit a 19th-century historic home. Get a glimpse of local industry and see see rice paper, popcorn, rice wine and candy being made. Attend a Farewell Reception and Dinner onboard.

DAY 13 ~ SAIGON

Disembark and transfer to Saigon. **Excursion:** *Highlights of Saigon.* See Notre Dame Cathedral, City Hall, the former U.S. Embassy and other landmarks. Visit Ben Thanh Market.

DAY 14 ~ SAIGON

Excursion: A City at War and Chinese Saigon. Visit the War Remnants Museum and the Reunification Palace. In the Cholon district, see a prominent temple in the heart of Saigon's Chinese community.

DAY 15 ~ SAIGON

Excursion: *Cu Chi Tunnels.* Explore the Cu Chi Tunnels, a vast complex of underground rooms.

DAY 16 ~ IN TRANSIT

Transfer to the Siem Reap airport for the return to your gateway city.★

NOTE: The information presented is preliminary. Itineraries, included features and schedules are subject to change. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking.

ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Available at an additional cost

Extend Your Trip: *Hanoi*. Enjoy a three-night extension featuring a one-night cruise of Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

ACCOMMODATIONS

SOFITEL ANGKOR PHOKEETHRA GOLF AND SPA RESORT

Bask in the elegance of the Sofitel Angkor Phokeethra Golf and Spa Resort in Siem Reap. The combination of Khmer and colonial French architectural styles complement the beautiful gardens. This tranquil oasis is ideally located near the spectacular Angkor temples. The hotel has a fitness center, spa and swimming pool. Wi-Fi is available.



MEKONG NAVIGATOR

Built in 2014, this extraordinary ship is specially designed for cruising the rivers of Southeast Asia. Cabins have twin beds convertible to a queen-sized bed. Suites have one king-sized bed. Decorated in a manner that combines traditional décor with elegant Asian notes, cabins are air-conditioned, with all the modern amenities including minibar, satellite television, universal docking station and large closet. Some suites have private verandas or balconies. Wi-Fi is available.

CARAVELLE SAIGON

The deluxe Caravelle Saigon welcomed its first guests on Christmas Eve 1959, and quickly became a city landmark. During the Vietnam War, the hotel was home to many of the war correspondents covering the war. The hotel has a fitness center, pool and spa. There are three restaurants and three bars. Wi-Fi is complimentary.

Previous page (top to bottom): Mekong River Silver Pagoda, Phnom Penh



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