

# 10 Day 5 Star Mekong Cruise Tour

## Asia Vacation Group – Authentic Asia!

Local knowledge, adventures of a lifetime.

Discover [Asia](#) with our team of experts, and a carefully selected, value-packed exploration of Asia's most iconic destinations. Our tours offer must-visit sights, rich experiences and quality inclusions all at an unbeatable prices. Your bucket list dreams are ticked off on these all-encompassing vacations.

Travel with the confidence. Your trip has been carefully crafted by [our team](#) with you in mind and it's that same team that takes you on the journey. One amazing team to help and guide you, not only as your local travel expert but also as a friend with helpfulness and sincerity.

Specialists in Asia touring since 2015, [Asia Vacation Group](#) is proud to be the people who craft your itinerary, help you at each step, plus guide and operate your tour.

<b>Small Group Tour</b>	<b>7 Nights On Luxury Mekong Cruise</b>	<b>7 Day Change Of Mind</b>
<b>Fully Escorted by English-speaking tour guide</b>		

## Day by Day Itinerary

Ho Chi Minh City, Mekong Cruise (7 nights), Siem Reap

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Vietnam Visa.
- Incredible in depth sightseeing the South Vietnam and Cambodia through Mekong Delta that you've never seen before.
- 2 nights at 5\* hotels accommodation in the centrally location.
- 7- nights on Jayavarman Cruise.
- Daily Breakfasts and full board meals on Mekong Cruise.
- Fully escorted by English speaking tour guides.
- Daily shore-excursions & entrance fees; sightseeing and transfers during the cruise
- Welcome drink, brewed coffee, tea and mineral water
- Passenger liability insurance; internet on the ship.

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Ho Chi Minh City Arrival

Xin Chao!

Welcome to Ho Chi Minh City – the formerly name called Saigon.

On arrival, you will be greeted by your transfer driver at Tan Son Nhat International Airport and transferred to your hotel for check in.

**Meal:** In-flight meals

**Accommodation:** Rex Hotel Saigon 5\* or similar

### Day 2: Ho Chi Minh City - My Tho - Tan Phong Island (Cai Be)

After breakfast, our tour guide will pick you up to transfer to the cruise welcome lounge. Relax with a second coffee while our staff collects your details. We bid farewell to the hustle and bustle of Saigon and travel 70 kilometers south overland towards My Tho to embark on our vessel. After checking into your luxurious floating "home," the sailing on this major Asian waterway begins.

A lunch buffet is served in the restaurant as the vessel steadily glides upstream. As twilight bathes the Mekong Delta in a golden haze, take the opportunity to get to know your fellow travelers and join in our official welcome with canapés and prosecco.

During dinner, the ship will likely reach Tan Phong Island area near Cai Be, where we anchor midstream. This is your first glimpse of the bustling area where we will begin our Mekong adventure on land tomorrow. Join us for some late-night entertainment in the evening cinema, featuring interesting classic movies or thrilling documentaries.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Jayavarman Cruise 5\* or similar

### **Day 3: Tan Phong Island - Binh Thanh Island - Tan Chau**

Wake early to embrace the stunning dawn scenery, a time when the Delta's inhabitants have already been active for hours. Energize yourself with our daily morning Tai Chi class before indulging in a lavish breakfast buffet. By local boat, we gain access to the secluded island of Tan Phong, a small island situated in the midst of one of the expansive Mekong River tributaries flowing toward the nearby sea.

During a visit to a workshop in the town of Cai Be, we'll have the opportunity to observe the production of rice paper, rice cookies, rice wine and coconut candies. This is a very interesting manual process involving manual labour and special production techniques. After the workshop we are heading to Tan Phong Island, a smaller island in the middle of the vast Mekong. We are visiting a local family and their fruit garden offering us various kind of tropical fruits to taste. A buggy ride through the island let us have a glimpse of the local day to day life as it unfolds. We stop at another family's house. They are specialized in weaving of water hyacinth plants into artistic crafts by hand.

#### **OPTIONAL MORNING EXCURSION:**

Culinary: Via tender we head towards Tan Phong Island to visit a workshop where we can see skilled workers weaving dried water hyacinths into artistic crafts. We explore some parts of the local island life during a 15-minute motorized buggy ride along small pathways, eventually stopping at a house of a local family to visit their orchard. Get to know various kind of fruits the Mekong Delta has to offer and engage in an interactive cooking experience with the local family preparing some local dishes together.

Relax and enjoy some time on your private balcony or at the bar as we continue our voyage upstream. In the afternoon, we arrive at the Sa Dec region and anchor near one of the larger islands in the Mekong known as Binh Thanh.

This island is home to several communities that sustain themselves by cultivating water hyacinths. Strolling through the village, you'll gain profound insights into local life and witness the complete traditional mat-making process. Additionally, you'll have the opportunity to meet a local elderly couple who have spent their entire lives on this island. They enjoy engaging in conversations with foreign visitors.

Before dinner, join us in the lounge for a presentation about life on the Mekong Delta as the ship sails toward our mooring spot for the night in Tan Chau.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Jayavarman Cruise 5\* or similar

### **Day 4: Tan Chau - Border Crossing - Phnom Penh**

After our morning Tai Chi session and a delightful breakfast, we embark on an exploration of this area, renowned primarily for its aquaculture.

Upon disembarking, we immerse ourselves in the vibrant town life of Tan Chau by boarding "xelois" (the Vietnamese word for rickshaws). Your personal xeloi driver leisurely navigates through a network of streets, allowing you to observe workshops, street vendors, shops, and the intriguing day-to-day activities of the locals. Our journey takes us to the local market, where we mingle with residents as they go about their morning shopping routines. Continuing on, we visit a Cao Dai temple and meet with one of the priests, who enlightens us about the unique beliefs and spirit of Cao Dai. Our final destination is a fish farm that has been operated for many years by a local family, who make their livelihood from this distinctive business. Here, we gain insight into the essential knowledge required to manage such a unique enterprise in this region.

#### **OPTIONAL MORNING EXCURSION:**

Culinary: Once on-shore, we walk five minutes to the nearby market. Join our guide in selecting and buying fresh ingredients for the upcoming cooking session. We take cyclos for a charming ride through town to the local Cao Dai temple. During a quick visit you get to know some insight into this particular religion as well as the special dietary practices of Cao Dai followers. We head to the temple kitchen for an hands-on cooking class, preparing special dietary dishes in an interactive and culturally enriching experience together with the local kitchen team.

Continuing our journey, we ascend the river for the remainder of the day, crossing into Cambodia and heading

towards Phnom Penh. The afternoon is yours to enjoy at your leisure. It's time to embrace the soothing rhythm of this river and fully immerse yourself in the "cruise mode." You can opt for a spa treatment, relax on the sun deck, or unwind on your private balcony. As we pass under the bridge, the captain always has an interesting story to share about "his" river. Additionally, our kitchen team invites you to participate in a culinary workshop where you can learn about popular Vietnamese and Cambodian dishes. The boat docks at Phnom Penh, either mid-stream or at the pier.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Jayavarman Cruise 5\* or similar

#### **Day 5: Phnom Penh**

Welcome to Phnom Penh, a city once renowned as the "Paris of the East." Despite its rapid development, it has retained much of its rustic charm and elegance. Phnom Penh is a remarkable city with a history and culture that spans centuries, still palpable at every street corner.

Our full-day sightseeing tour begins right after breakfast, allowing us to explore the city's highlights. We'll start with a cyclo ride, meandering through the town and then visit historic places such as the palace and the silver pagoda. Our journey takes us to the "S21" prison, a poignant and dark chapter in Cambodia's history during the Khmer Rouge regime of the 1970s. Afterward, we'll pause for a delightful lunch in town before continuing to visit one of the country's most famous history museums, "Sosoro," and concluding the tour with a leisurely stroll through the city's French quarter, including the iconic and aptly named monument of Wat Phnom.

In the evening, we invite you to an engaging expert lecture in the lounge. To cap off this eventful day, we'll indulge in a delightful open-air barbecue and gala dinner accompanied by a classic Apsara dance performance. Afterward, feel free to explore the city at night, savouring Phnom Penh's vibrant nightlife or taking in the lively river promenade..

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Jayavarman Cruise 5\* or similar

#### **Day 6: Phnom Penh - Angkor Ban - Kampong Cham (Mekong) - Prek Bangkok**

We are leaving Phnom Penh early to make our way to Angkor Ban. The morning Tai Chi session sets the mood for the day as we begin our tour of Angkor Ban.

This place includes a monastery with a delightful local village behind it. You'll have the chance to meet monks during their morning class and engage in friendly conversations with the villagers. As we meander through the village, we'll get as close as possible to the local way of life, collecting wonderful memories of Cambodia's rustic lifestyle. This village is truly a gem to explore offering photographic and touching moments whilst interacting with the local community.

#### **OPTIONAL MORNING EXCURSION:**

Culinary: Today, the culinary themed excursion is offering a nice highlight. In addition to the visit of the Angkor Ban village (see default excursion) the group is going to visit the house of Mr B. who used to work years ago as a young chef aboard the ship Jayavarman. When he got married, he moved to his wife's home village. Together with his "mom-in-law" and the "chef" in the household (his wife), we prepare and cook a century old soup recipe called "Samlor Korko". The soup is kind of a fish soup made with many vegetables, spices, herbs, roasted rice, accompanied with a duck egg omelette.

As we continue to sail upstream and prior to lunchtime, our crew showcases afterwards various traditional Khmer fashions worn by locals during special occasions.

We are in the vast Mekong River at the town of Kampong Cham which is an important trade and transportation hub but it still maintains scattered small hamlets around the outskirts where the community's rhythm blends with the skilled hands of artisans. For instance, in Cheung Krok, locals craft various handmade items, whether it's food, fashion, or other everyday goods. The nearby Bamboo bridge, which is erected seasonally, serves as more than just a passageway; it's a gateway to the past.

Once back onboard, the ship turns arounds sailing down the Mekong River again to reach our overnight mooring place Prek Bangkok later in the evening.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Jayavarman Cruise 5\* or similar

#### **Day 7: Prek Bangkok - Kampong Tralach - Kampong Laeang (Tonle)**

Early birds are welcome to join the daily Tai Chi on the open deck again.

At the confluence of the Tonle and Mekong Rivers lies the small village of Prek Bangkong, known for its silk weaving community. This village was also the former residence of the Royal family before they moved to the Royal Palace. However, the real stars in this area today are the silk weavers, artisans who craft silk from the very beginning. We will have the opportunity to closely observe and learn about this intricate silk production process. We conclude this excursion by visiting the heritage house of H.E. Sam-El, once a famous architect for the royal family.

As we continue to sail upstream into the Tonle River and prior to lunchtime, our guide offers a presentation about the geography of the Mekong and the Tonle Rivers.

In the afternoon, we enjoy an exciting excursion to discover another part of rural Cambodian Kampong Tralach countryside. Our ox-pulled cart will transport us along the riverside and down winding back roads, flanked by picturesque rice paddies, until we arrive at a small village. Here, we will have the opportunity to learn about a local NGO school and library project. Alternatively, you can choose to visit the nearby ancient 300-year-old temple and Buddha shrine.

Join a happy hour time at the bar whilst we sail into the sunset. We moor later near Kampong Laeang. After dinner, the nightly cinema has another classic film on display.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Jayavarman Cruise 5\* or similar

#### **Day 8: Kampong Laeang - Tonle Lake**

We are in the midst of the vast Tonle region, one of Cambodia's amazing ecosystems. We will discover Kampong Laeang this morning, situated just across from the famous pottery town of Kampong Chhnang. Once ashore, we embark on tuk-tuks to travel the heart of rural Cambodian life. During this excursion, we'll explore various locals, discover the art of pottery making, and visit a charming pre-Angkorian temple. From a vantage point, we can enjoy panoramic views of the vast floodplains and lush rice fields (seasonal).

##### **OPTIONAL MORNING EXCURSION:**

Culinary: The culinary themed excursion offers in addition to the default cultural excursion the possibility to participate in a cooking demonstration. Get to know how to prepare together the quite famous snack called "Nom Kruak" which is a kind of cake made from white or brown rice. Originally cooked only one side only, the Khmer invented Nom Kruak and cooked it on both sides. This dish is a tasty pre-dinner snack often consumed by locals.

Back on board, the ship enters now the vast Tonle Lake. During the whole afternoon, accompanied by some onboard entertainment, you can enjoy the ocean-like views until we reach our mooring spot mid-lake at the doorstep of Siem Reap. We end this day of sailing with a farewell dinner and party vibes.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Jayavarman Cruise 5\* or similar

#### **Day 9: Tonle Lake - Siem Reap**

Enjoy your last breakfast on board our floating sanctuary.

The Tonle Sap (The Great Lake) is the flowing heart of Cambodia, giving love and life to millions of people. This rich ecosystem and UNESCO-designated Biosphere Reserve has more fish than any other lake in the world and is home to an incredible variety of birds, including rare and endangered feathered life.

Here, our Heritage Line cruise comes to an end this morning. We prepare to disembark the ship and take a local boat to the shore, passing a vast floating community. We arrive at the Siem Reap pier and bring you to the drop off point in the city centre.

Check in your hotel and free time at leisure.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Angkor Paradise Hotel 5\* or similar

#### **Day 10: Siem Reap - Departure**

Today, you are free time at leisure until we drive to the airport for flight back home.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** N/A

## INCLUSIONS

- Vietnam Visa.
- Daily shore-excursions & entrance fees
- 2-nights at 5\* hotels accommodation
- 7-nights on Superior at Jayavarman Cruise
- Daily breakfast in the category chosen or similar (subject to availability)
- Full board meals on Jayavarman Cruise
- Entertainment/activities during the cruise as mentioned in the program
- All local boat rentals as mentioned in the program
- Internet on the ship (subject to cellular network signal)
- Water bottles during tours
- Air-conditioned transportation
- All entrance and sightseeing fees as mentioned in the program
- Fully escorted by English speaking guides

## EXCLUSIONS

- International flight
- Meals and drinks are not mentioned in the program
- Tipping for driver and tour guide
- Cambodia Visa
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance (we strongly recommend you hold a valid travel insurance policy for all domestic and overseas travel)
- Trip delay or interruption by airline schedule change
- Extra cost or missing tour caused by flight delay or cancel
- Any service not clearly mentioned in the program

## DEPARTURE DATES: PRICE IS QUOTED IN NZ\$ PER PERSON

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
<b>Friday</b> 05 Jul 2024	<b>Sunday</b> 14 Jul 2024	NZ\$4,299		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 19 Jul 2024	<b>Sunday</b> 28 Jul 2024	NZ\$4,299		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 02 Aug 2024	<b>Sunday</b> 11 Aug 2024	NZ\$4,299		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 16 Aug 2024	<b>Sunday</b> 25 Aug 2024	NZ\$4,299		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 13 Sep 2024	<b>Sunday</b> 22 Sep 2024	NZ\$4,299		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 27 Sep 2024	<b>Sunday</b> 06 Oct 2024	NZ\$5,799		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 11 Oct 2024	<b>Sunday</b> 20 Oct 2024	NZ\$5,799		<a href="#">Book</a>

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
<b>Friday</b> 25 Oct 2024	<b>Sunday</b> 03 Nov 2024	NZ\$5,799		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Wednesday</b> 30 Oct 2024	<b>Friday</b> 08 Nov 2024	NZ\$5,799		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 08 Nov 2024	<b>Sunday</b> 17 Nov 2024	NZ\$5,799		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 22 Nov 2024	<b>Sunday</b> 01 Dec 2024	NZ\$5,799		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 06 Dec 2024	<b>Sunday</b> 15 Dec 2024	NZ\$7,099		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 20 Dec 2024	<b>Sunday</b> 29 Dec 2024	NZ\$7,099		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 03 Jan 2025	<b>Sunday</b> 12 Jan 2025	NZ\$5,999		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 14 Feb 2025	<b>Sunday</b> 23 Feb 2025	NZ\$5,999		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 14 Mar 2025	<b>Sunday</b> 23 Mar 2025	NZ\$5,999		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 28 Mar 2025	<b>Sunday</b> 06 Apr 2025	NZ\$5,999		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 11 Apr 2025	<b>Sunday</b> 20 Apr 2025	NZ\$5,099		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 04 Jul 2025	<b>Sunday</b> 13 Jul 2025	NZ\$4,299		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 18 Jul 2025	<b>Sunday</b> 27 Jul 2025	NZ\$4,299		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 01 Aug 2025	<b>Sunday</b> 10 Aug 2025	NZ\$4,299		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 15 Aug 2025	<b>Sunday</b> 24 Aug 2025	NZ\$4,299		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 26 Sep 2025	<b>Sunday</b> 05 Oct 2025	NZ\$5,999		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 10 Oct 2025	<b>Sunday</b> 19 Oct 2025	NZ\$5,999		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 07 Nov 2025	<b>Sunday</b> 16 Nov 2025	NZ\$5,999		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 19 Dec 2025	<b>Sunday</b> 28 Dec 2025	NZ\$7,099		<a href="#">Book</a>

## OPTIONAL TOURS

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## **FINE PRINT**

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### **FLIGHT INFORMATION**

This package includes international flights from Auckland and surcharge **NZ\$500** from Queenstown and Christchurch, surcharge **NZ\$450** from Wellington

In this packages, we will use some different airlines such as: Air New Zealand, Qantas Airlines, Jetstar Airlines, Vietnam Airlines, China Airlines, China Southern Airlines, Vietjet Air or similar airlines (20kg for checked baggage per passenger and 7kg hand luggage per passenger, 01-piece check-in baggage).

- Some flights will require a minimum of 1 transit (maximum 2).
- All tickets will include 20 kilos checked baggage per person, along with 7 kilos of hand luggage.
- Despite the airlines baggage allowance, we recommend travelling with 20 kilos per person due to restrictions with internal flights (where applicable), as well as coach and train transportation. Also, you will be responsible for handling your luggage at all times as the services of porters is not included. If travelling over this amount, you will be liable for any excess baggage fees enforced by the airline, payable direct.
- Once ticketed, flights are non-refundable. Any changes will be subject to the airline rules, Airline change fees and an Asia Vacation Group change fee of NZ\$250 per person.
- Full names as per passport (including all middle names) are required. Any error in the names submitted will be subject to an Asia Vacation Group name change fee of NZ\$150 plus any applicable fees charged by the airline, or the ticket may be non-refundable with the purchase of a new ticket required.
- Any airline schedule changes or cancellations are beyond our control. It is important that you, as the customer, stay up-to-date with the latest airline schedule information prior to your departure. If a schedule change results in extended transits or an earlier/later departure from your destination, any additional accommodation or alternative arrangements will be at the traveler's expense.
- Any airline 'extras' such as pre-allocated seating is at your own arrangement (additional charges apply)
- After booking, the price payable may be subject to change as a result of factors beyond the control of Asia Vacation Group. Asia Vacation Group reserves the right to increase the price payable and this will be reflected on the customer's invoice. Increases may be in relation to, but not limited to, currency fluctuations, airline taxes, airfare increases and fuel surcharges.
- Internal airfares (where applicable and included in the itinerary) will be using a local carrier and may include low-cost carriers without meals or entertainment. Checked baggage will still be included for each passenger. Any additional baggage required is payable at time of check-in.
- If you are travelling with another party on a separate booking, we cannot guarantee that the same flights will be booked for all parties, as this strictly depends on availability.
- You will be responsible for handling your luggage at all times as the services of porters are not included. If travelling over the recommended amount, you will be liable for any excess baggage fees enforced by the airline, payable directly.
- In the event of that you no-show on your scheduled flight, please be aware the airline will require you to pay a no show fee, Airline reissue fee plus any additional airfare and taxes. Asia Vacation Group will also charge a NZ\$250 admin fee to assist re accommodating you on the next available flight. Please note that depending on the airline's policy, purchasing a new ticket may be required.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

#### **Important Information**

#### **Physical Requirements**

A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

#### **Tipping**

A friendly reminder that tipping is not included in your package. Please be advised that tipping for tour guides, drivers and bellmen are required and will be collected by your travel consultant 7 days before you depart. A gratuity

of NZ\$10 per person/day can make a big difference to locals employed in the tourism industry as they have done an impeccable job to serve you through your holiday.

**Accommodation**

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences however any changes are beyond our control.

**Single Supplement**

Single supplement is **NZ\$     per person** in addition to the twin share price.

**Paired Solo Traveler**

Not available.

**Group size:**

Maximum 30 persons

**Triple Share**

Upon your request except for cruises

**Travel Insurance**

Travel insurance is required to protect yourself against the unexpected.

**Visa & Passport information**

It is the traveler's responsibility to ensure they have a valid passport. The passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from the intended date of return and must have more than 2 blank pages.

A visa is required for travel to Vietnam. The visa is easiest to complete with Asia Vacation Group and just need to pay NZ\$160 for single entry for Vietnam Visa.

**Tour Documentation**

Final documentation, including e-tickets and hotel details, will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

**Children**

Children must be 2 years old or over and share a room with parents at all times. Children are the same price as adults.

**Tour Length**

The total length of the tour in days includes time spent in flight and is subject to change depending on the flight schedule, please refer to the day by day itinerary for the time spent on land.

**HOW TO EXTEND YOUR STAY**

You can enhance your holiday by arriving or departing before or after the tour. On this tour you can pay extra for arriving early or extension your trip.

**Pre-tour night:** NZ   /room/night

**Post-tour night:** NZ   /room/night

**ASIA VACATION GROUP**

Australia Call: 1800 229 339