

16 DAY VIETNAM & CAMBODIA WITH MEKONG LUXURY CRUISE

You really can travel comfortably and stress-free when you book this 16-day tour of Vietnam and Cambodia with Mekong Luxury Cruise.

One of the most anticipated highlights of this trip will be the 3-day luxury cruise where you will be cared for by professional crew members. You will be amazed the cruise ship's rooftop bar as you sip your beverage and eat dinner overlooking charming Vietnamese towns along the incredible Mekong River.

Finish your trip in Cambodia where you will discover the Angkor Temples Complex in Siem Reap, among other ancient structures.

Note: As flight times, hotels, logistical services and days of travel can be subject to availability and modifications beyond our control, if cancellations or delays should occur, we will make a conscientious effort to secure alternative arrangements of similar value to those in our booking agreement.

Mekong Cruise	Flexible Cancellation	Fully escorted by English-speaking local tour guide
Airfares		

Day by Day Itinerary

Hanoi (2 nights), Halong Bay (1 night), Danang (2 nights), Ho Chi Minh City (2 nights), Mekong Cruise (3 nights), Phnom Penh (2 nights), Siem Reap (2 nights)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Travel into an underground world of guerilla warfare, Cu Chi Tunnels
- Stand astounded by the UNESCO World Heritage Angkor Temples
- Brace yourself for an excursion around Tan Chau, a slow-paced town near the Cambodian border.
- Visit Phnom Penh's famous tourist attractions including Killing Fields, the centrally located prison "S21", Royal Palace and National Museum.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Australia {plane} Hanoi Capital (Vietnam)

Today you will depart from your home for the flight to Hanoi Capital of Vietnam. On arrival, you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel for check-in.

Meal: In-flight.

Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi.

Day 2: Hanoi City Tour

After breakfast, you will have a bustling day to visit a city tour of Hanoi and will explore attractions such as the Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first university, Ho Chi Minh Complex (Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, One Pillar Pagoda) and Tran Quoc Pagoda, one of the oldest pagodas in Vietnam. Lunch is included in this day.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

Day 3: Hanoi {bus} Halong Bay

Today you will travel by coach through the rich farm land of the Red River Delta to arrive at Halong Bay. Designated a World Heritage site in 1994, Halong Bay's spectacular scatter of islands, dotted with wind- and wave-eroded grottoes, is a vision of ethereal beauty. Upon arrival, you will board your ship to visit the thousands of limestone islands filled with caves of all shapes and sizes. The sails of junks and sampans gliding along the clear and emerald waters of the bay form a magnificent scene that blends into the sky. You will also have the opportunity to visit some



of the hidden grottoes beneath the towering cliffs.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

Accommodation: Overnight Cruise

Day 4: Halong Bay {bus} Hanoi {plane} Danang

Awake early and join a Tai Chi session on the top deck or simply relax and enjoy the sunrise over the bay's towering islands. Enjoy a morning cup of coffee or tea before exploring nearby islands by rowboat. Return to the junk and admire the amazing rock formations of Halong Bay from the sundeck. Your driver will meet you at the Halong jetty then we drive to Noi Bai Airport and get ready for a short flight to Da Nang. On arrival, you will be met and transferred to Danang to check in your hotel.

Meal: Brunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Danang

Day 5: Danang – Optional tour to Golden Bridge Tour

Today you can enjoy a day of leisure to explore Danang or join our optional tours.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Danang

Day 6: Danang - Hoi An Walking Tour – Flight to Saigon

After breakfast, you will explore Hoi An's bustling local market and other attractions with unique architectures such as Old Merchants' House, a local Chinese Temple and the Japanese Covered Bridge. Enjoy a stroll along the peaceful Thu Bon River, one of the world's famous trading port in the past. It will be an ideal day for you to learn about the fascinating stories and history of these ancient architectures.

Late afternoon, get transferred to the airport for flight to Saigon. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to your hotel for check-in.

Meal: Breakfast.

Accommodation: Hotel in Danang

Day 7: Saigon {bus} Cu Chi Tunnels

After breakfast, head to Cu Chi Tunnels, a byzantine maze of underground passages, chambers and booby traps used by both the Viet Minh and the Viet Cong during Vietnam-US war. The tunnel system had become legendary during the 1960s as a strategic military base and underground community life.

In the afternoon, you will visit the bustling city of Saigon such as: Notre Dame Cathedral, Post Office, War Remnant Museum and dive into the colorful Ben Thanh Market, one of Ho Chi Minh's liveliest areas

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch.

Accommodation: Hotel in Saigon.

Day 8: The Jahan Cruise: Saigon - My Tho - Cai Be

Today, you will meet in the welcome lounge in Saigon, enjoy a drink then travel 70 km to My Tho. On arrival, embark on a luxury cruise for a journey along the mighty Mekong River. The professional crew will warmly welcome you on board then guide you to check in your prepared state-room. A lunch buffet is served in the restaurant on board.

In the afternoon, you can leisurely enjoy tea at your private balcony or at the open air bar while the cruise steadily glides upstream to reach Cai Be, a charming town well-known for its spiritual Catholic French Church and manufacturer of traditional crafts and food products. We drop anchor near Cai Be. Enjoy dinner on board and watch the selected classic movies.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

Accommodation: Overnight in Jahan Cruise

Day 9: The Jahan Cruise: Cai Be – Sa Dec – Tan Chau



Awake early and join a Tai Chi session on the top deck or simply relax and enjoy the sunrise. This morning, you will take a Cai Be tour. Go on-shore to visit a workshop where you can learn how rice paste, rice paper, rice cookies, rice wine and coconut candies are manufactured. Continue to cruise through the lush and green canal network and observe farmers working on fields. Lunch is served on board.

In the afternoon, upon arrival in Sa Dec, you will embark on a local boat and head towards Binh Thanh island to explore the native life and witness the manual process of mat making. Also, you will meet an elderly local couple who will share their exciting stories on life on this island.

Back on board and take a dip in a pool on the sun deck and listen to a presentation of the expert guide on the “Life on the Mekong Delta” while the ship continues to Tan Chau, the border town to Cambodia. We will moor near Tan Chau.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

Accommodation: Overnight in Jahan Cruise

Day 10: The Jahan Cruise: Tan Chau – Phnom Penh.

After breakfast at the dining hall, you will go on-shore and take an excursion around Tan Chau by “xe loi”, a local vehicle used as a taxi in this region. Slowly cross the streets to see all the local houses and workshops before stopping at the colorful market for shopping. Afterwards, hop on a local boat to visit the floating fish farm and see how fish farming works. Back on board and cruise towards Phnom Penh. Spend your rest of the afternoon at your leisure. Dinner is served before arriving in Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

Accommodation: Overnight in Jahan Cruise

Day 11: Phnom Penh

Welcome to Phnom Penh, described as the “Pearl of the Orient”. You will go on-shore and get transferred to check in your hotel.

Meal: Breakfast.

Accommodation: Hotel in Phnom Penh.

Day 12: Phnom Penh City Tour

This morning, you will take a Phnom Penh city tour to The Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda, National Museum, Wat Ounalom and Central Market. Then discover the place where journalists camped on the eve of the Khmer Rouge takeover, followed by a visit to the ghostly building. Later on, continue to Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, a former high school which was used as the notorious Security Prison 21 (S-21) by the Khmer Rouge regime before heading to Choeung Ek Killing Field to learn about the atrocities that took place here. To end your journey today, you will have a chance to taste some Khmer snacks while learning about the sombre Cambodian history.

Meal: Breakfast.

Accommodation: Hotel in Phnom Penh.

Day 13: Phnom Penh {plane} Siem Reap

Today you will board a domestic flight to Siem Reap where you’ll stay for two nights. On arrival, check in your hotel and relax.

Overnight in Siem Reap

Meal: Breakfast.

Accommodation: Hotel in Siem Reap.

Day 14: Siem Reap {bus} Angkor Temples Complex

Spend a full-day visiting the breathtaking Angkor Temples including Angkor Wat, Angkor Thom (home to Elephant Terrace, Bayon Temple, Terrace of Leper King and Ta Prohm).

Meal: Breakfast.

Accommodation: Hotel in Siem Reap.



Day 15: Siem Reap {plane} Australia

You will get some free time before getting transferred to the airport for a flight back home.

Meal: Breakfast, In-flight meals

Accommodation: On flight

Day 16: Home Arrival

You will arrive home today. **Meal:** N/A. **Accommodation:** N/A.

INCLUSIONS

- International flights from/to Australia to Vietnam, Cambodia
- Daily (group) shore-excursions & entrance fees
- Luxury Accommodation and breakfast in the category chosen or similar (subject to availability)
- Meals as mentioned in the program
- 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
- Local English speaking guides in Vietnam Cambodia

EXCLUSIONS

- Meals and drinks are not mentioned in the program
- Visa fees in Vietnam, Cambodia
- Tipping for driver and tour guide (suggestion: 10AUD/pp/day)
- 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

2023 DEPARTURE DATES: PRICE IS QUOTED IN AU\$ PER PERSON

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
Saturday 11 Nov 2023	Sunday 26 Nov 2023	7,499		Book
Saturday 23 Dec 2023	Sunday 07 Jan 2024	8,099		Book

OPTIONAL TOURS





**Half-Day Guided Tour
Australian Beef with Wine
Tasting & Rickshaw in
AU\$120**



**Golden Bridge Tour
AU\$183**



**Tonle Sap Lake Tour
AU\$136**



**Dinner on Saigon River
Cruise
AU\$135**

FINE PRINT

FLIGHT INFORMATION

FLIGHTS, UPGRADES & EXTENSIONS

Airfare Information

- Airline: Vietnam Airlines, Bamboo Airways or similar (23kg for checked baggage per passenger and 7kg hand luggage per passenger)
- Some flights will require a minimum of 1 transit (maximum 2).
- Despite the airlines baggage allowance, we recommend travelling with 23 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 and change fees.
- Full names as per passport (including all middle names) are required.
- Any airline schedule changes or cancellations are beyond our control.

Any airline 'extras' such as pre-allocated seating is at your own arrangement (additional charges apply)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is required to protect yourself against the unexpected.

We have partnered with CHI Travel Insurance to offer you competitive rates for your travel insurance. You can book comprehensive or budget cover simply to arrange your policy.

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 4 blank pages.

Australian passport holder is required to have a visa for travel to Vietnam. The visa is easiest to complete with Asia



Vacation group and just need to pay AUD160 for Vietnam visa single entry.

Once approved, please ensure that you travel with the following documentation as they are required to present to customs upon arrival into the country.

Please note that these details are subject to change without notice. We recommend visiting <https://smartraveller.gov.au> for up to date information in terms of entry requirements.

For Cambodia, you will obtain your visa when crossing the border from Vietnam to Cambodia. The cost of the Cambodian Visa is around USD\$37 per person.

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 **10AUD 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.

Children

Children must be 5 years old or over and share a room with parents at all times. Children are the same price as adults. Children below 5 years are not allowed on board.

HOW TO EXTEND YOUR STAY

Arriving early/Extending your trip: From **\$200** per person is applied for trip extension or early arrivals (subject to availability and applicable fare difference). If you wish to extend your trip, please note in your Booking Form then we will provide quotations for you. The fee above is just administrative only, no service included.

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