

Viking Saigon Cruise – 8 days

(Saigon – Siem Reap)

Itinerary Overview

Upstream: Saigon – Siem Reap

Day	Destination	Meals
Day 1	SAIGON – MY THO, VIETNAM	L/D
Day 2	SA DEC, VIETNAM	B/L/D
Day 3	TAN CHAU, VIETNAM	B/L/D
Day 4	PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA	B/L/D
Day 5	PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA	B/L/D
Day 6	MEKONG RIVER, CAMBODIA	B/L/D
Day 7	KAMPONG CHAM, CAMBODIA	B/L/D
Day 8	SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA	B/D

Note*: B: Breakfast / L: Lunch / D: Dinner

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1

SAIGON – MY THO, VIETNAM

Pick up at your hotel and proceed to Mỹ Tho to embark your ship. Along the way, visit the Cu Chi tunnels—mysterious, once-secret tunnels used as supply routes, hospitals and living quarters by the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War. These subterranean passageways outside Ho Chi Minh City are a tiny part of a huge network that extends through much of Vietnam. As you settle in to your stateroom, we begin sailing along the Mekong River.

Note*: this is a copy of the itinerary on Indochina Treks Travel Official Website and not the final itinerary.

Meals: Lunch/Dinner

Accommodation: Mekong Jewel Cruise

Day 2

SA DEC, VIETNAM

This morning, visit the village of Cái Bè, where you will see local workers producing rice noodles, coconut candy and a host of other handmade products. This afternoon, enjoy an exciting sampan excursion along the canals and backwaters of the Mekong Delta. Small factories line the river channels; during your excursion, get a glimpse of industry in the region with a visit to a brick factory. Stop in Sa Đéc to see the home of Mr. Huynh Thuy Le, the protagonist in Marguerite Duras's beloved autobiographic novel, *l'Amant* (The Lover). This evening, attend an onboard screening of *l'Amant*.

Meals: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Accommodation: Mekong Jewel Cruise

Day 3

TAN CHAU, VIETNAM

Savor a rare glimpse of rural life as it has been lived for ages. Begin your morning with a ride on a traditional rickshaw in Tân Châu. Afterward, visit the floating fish farm by wooden sampan, then take a boat ride to Vinh Hoa, known as "Evergreen Island." Here, you can take a short walk to see various methods of traditional Vietnamese farming and the crafts and other daily activities of local people firsthand.

Return on board for lunch and scenic cruising along the Mekong; this afternoon we cross over into Cambodia. Onboard activities include a fruit-carving workshop and a presentation about the history of Vietnam. This evening we screen the 1984 film *The Killing Fields*.

Meals: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Accommodation: Mekong Jewel Cruise

Day 4

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

Dock along the picturesque waterfront of Cambodia's capital and explore the city in style, in a cyclo (the ubiquitous passenger bicycles of Southeast Asia). This mode of transportation provides many Cambodians with a source of income and visitors with a speedy and enjoyable way to get around. See the magnificent Royal Palace with the Silver Pagoda, built in the 19th century by the French but inspired by the centuries-old architecture of the Khmer. Then see the National Museum of Cambodia, which houses treasures of Khmer art and craftsmanship and displays art that predates the mighty

empire.

This afternoon, join an excursion to the sobering memorial in the Tuol Sleng detention center, a former high school in which thousands of victims of the Khmer Rouge died, and the Killing Fields of Choeung Ek. Or, you may choose to explore the city's maze of small alleys, markets and busy streets on your own. Enjoy dinner on board, followed by a folkloric performance.

Meals: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Accommodation: Mekong Jewel Cruise

Day 5

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

This morning's excursion takes you through a Cambodian village. Afterward, take a short ride to Udon Monastery for a tour and to receive a blessing by the monks. Then continue to the next village, famous for its silversmiths. Rejoin your ship and have lunch as we cruise into Phnom Penh.

Your afternoon is free to explore Phnom Penh's historic riverfront area with its restaurants, art galleries and silk shops, or perhaps visit the distinctive Central Market or the "Russian Market" where you can buy jewelry, curios, clothes and souvenirs. You might prefer to visit more of the city's wats (monastery temples): Wat Langka, Wat Botum, Wat Koh or Wat Ounalom, each with its own special character and purpose. Late this afternoon, enjoy an onboard presentation about recent Cambodian history by a local expert. Dinner is served on board the ship.

Meals: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Accommodation: Mekong Jewel Cruise

Day 6

MEKONG RIVER, CAMBODIA

Today, enjoy scenic cruising along the Mekong, one of the world's great rivers. The Mekong is truly the "Mother River of Southeast Asia," sustaining civilizations through the centuries. Pass by some of the Mekong rice fields. The Khmer Empire was founded on a rice surplus, and rice is still the main staple of Vietnamese cuisine. Stop to visit a typical Khmer river community that is famous for its silk-weaving production. Return on board for lunch, then enjoy a lecture about life along the Mekong River while cruising this afternoon.

Meals: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Accommodation: Mekong Jewel Cruise

Day 7

KAMPONG CHAM, CAMBODIA

This morning, visit the Twin Holy Mountains of Phnom Pros and Phnom Srey, with their many temples and pagodas that are still used during traditional Khmer festivals. After, visit a Kampong Cham village and learn about the self-sustaining practices of its residents. This afternoon, enjoy free time to explore a Kampong Cham village.

Meals: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Accommodation: Mekong Jewel Cruise

Day 8

DISEMBARKATION

Bid farewell to your ship this morning as your cruise through Vietnam and Cambodia comes to an end. Disembark in Kampong Thom, then take a ride through the Cambodian countryside to Siem Reap.

Check in to your hotel for a three-night stay and spend your afternoon relaxing or using the numerous facilities offered at the hotel. Tonight's dinner is accompanied by a traditional Apsara dance show.

Meals: Breakfast/Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel in Siem Reap

Inclusions & Exclusions

Inclusions:

- All cruises include group shore-excursions
- Entrance fees
- Transportation
- Tour guide services on board(English speaking)
- Taxes, fuel, river pilots, transfers in Siem Reap from/to the meeting point to/from embarkation/disembarkation point or vice versa.
- Food includes full board (Breakfast, lunch, dinner – buffet or set menu style). Mineral water and coffee/tea (from jug) is included all day.

Exclusions:

- Phnom Penh port tax per passenger of 65 USD.
- Crew gratuities (5 USD per passenger/day are recommended).
- Cambodian Visa (available on Upstream cruise only/37 USD).
- Fuel surcharges if any (see terms and conditions).
- Transfers from/to hotel in Saigon to/from Saigon port

Important note*:

- For overnight registration, we will need passport information (Full name, sex, Nationality, passport number, date of birth) of passengers at least four weeks prior to cruise date
- The price would vary depending on your departures, number of passengers and cabin type. Please book the tour or contact us for best rate of your itinerary

Important Information

River Conditions Warning

The rivers you will sail on are subject to seasonal rises and falls of water level, in some places as much as 30 metres. Water levels can change dramatically overnight and a sudden rise can impede our progress upstream considerably and even prevent us from passing under certain bridges. A sudden fall can result in our being unable to get into certain places or go as far upstream as we would hope. Groundings on sandbars are not infrequent and are part of the excitement of any expedition. Published itineraries are indicational only and subject to sudden change. In such events alternative itineraries will be provided and we do our best to ensure that if a stop is missed we make up for it with another stop.

Passengers are thus forewarned and expected to be flexible and patient. River cruising in Asia can be a dramatic and adventurous experience – not like cruising the controlled waterways of Europe or America. Note also that we operate in areas with little or no developed infrastructure and subject to the strictures of local officialdom. Be prepared for this and it is all more the fun!

For itineraries that include flights in the price of the ticket it should be noted that regional airlines can change departure times or cancel flights at very short notice. In such an event we endeavour to arrange alternative flights but note that this can result in delays often resulting in embarking or disembarking on a different day to that indicated in the itinerary. In such an event the company will cover the cost of hotel accommodation and main meals only, but will not be liable for any claims for compensation for missed days on board a ship, drinks or curtailment of the said itinerary.

Clothes

We recommend wearing loose and comfortable clothing made of cotton or modern material that can readily cool off sweat and body heat. The type of shoes will depend on the excursion types so best to have both light, open toed shoes as well as good walking/hiking shoes with you. A sun hat is always a good idea to bring along.

Southern Vietnam and Cambodia are warm all year-round, but our other cruise destinations can get chilly during the winter months (Laos, Myanmar or northern Vietnam). Therefore, it is always recommended to bring a pullover or a warm jacket with you during this period.

Many of our cruises include visits to local temples or pagodas. When visiting these holy sites, make sure to wear appropriate clothing which covers your shoulders and knees.

Sea sickness

Generally speaking, the rivers we are cruising on in Southeast Asia are very calm and there is hardly any motion on any of our ships. A bit of motion can occur during monsoon rains with stormy winds, but the amount of motion is much less than one would feel during bad weather on the open ocean.

Sea cruises as we offer in Halong Bay or Lan Ha Bay can sometimes encounter heavier waters and ship motion, although this happens very rarely and port authorities will most likely not allow sailing under any such circumstances anyway.

If you are new to cruising or prone to motion sickness, it does not hurt to bring along some motion sickness medication. Drinking a nice hot fresh ginger tea is a natural remedy and tasty alternative our staff is always happy to make for you.

Food and Beverage

All food and beverage on board is completely safe to eat and enjoy, including the ice cubes you enjoy in your chilled drinks. We do not recommend drinking water straight from the tap anywhere, including onboard. We provide you with complimentary clean drinking water throughout your cruise.

You may want to be bit careful with local dishes as they can be spicier than you are used to from home. Approach new dishes slowly and carefully. If you have a sensitive stomach, then you may like to double check with our chef or onboard managers about specific dishes or meals.

On excursions, it may be a good idea to avoid local foods and snacks unless offered by our tour guides. Besides the above, in general we recommend the following motto for your pre- and post-cruise travelling in the Southeast Asian tropics: boil it, peel it, cook it, wash it or forget it!

Health risks

The most effective protection from personal contamination is ensuring strict attention to personal hygiene and in particular, frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water and refraining from hand-to-mouth contact. Colds and other viruses can spread quickly in an enclosed area such as a ship. Continue to practice common-sense hygiene and respiratory courtesy. Wash your hands often and cover your coughs and sneeze. It is recommended that passengers carry anti-bacterial hand sanitizer, which does not require rinsing with water. Use sanitizer frequently and throughout the day, particularly after shore excursions and prior to meals. If you have any questions regarding your health or safety, please do not hesitate to ask your cruise director.

Motion sickness can be a problem for some people when cruising, flying or travelling on coaches and trains and it is a good idea to take precautionary measures. Over-the-counter drugs for treating motion sickness can be purchased at pharmacies in most countries, though a side effect can be drowsiness.

Alternatives such as ginger tablets and acupressure wristbands are also available and work well for some people.

Visa requirements for Cambodia

Cambodia visas are easily obtained for most travelers on arrival. Note that passports must have a validity of at least 6 months after your last date of travel in Cambodia.

Because travel restrictions across Southeast Asia are constantly changing, we recommend checking with the Cambodia embassy/consulate in your home country for the latest information.

Visa requirements for Vietnam

With the exception of visa exemptions, all travelers must arrange their visa prior to arrival in Vietnam. Passports must also have a validity of at least 6 months after your last date of travel in Vietnam.

Because travel restrictions across Southeast Asia are constantly changing, we recommend checking with the Vietnam embassy/consulate in your home country for the latest information.

Insurance

We recommend at least purchasing travel health insurance which covers both in- & outpatient visits and medical repatriation. Buying additional trip cancellation and interruption coverage may also be beneficial in case you have to cancel your travel plans due to unforeseen circumstances.

Electrical adapters

We always recommend bringing a travel adapter as a standard item in your travel kit. You can borrow an adapter on board, but these may be limited.

Tipping

It is customary in Asia to tip service providers such as waiters, at approximately 10%, depending on the service. Tipping is expected - though not compulsory - and shows an expression of satisfaction with the people who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are several times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides or drivers we use. Recommendations for tipping drivers and local guides would range from \$3-\$5 USD per person per day depending on the quality and length of the service.

Electricity

Indochina Countries use 220V, and a mixture of flat 2-pin, round 2-pin or 3 pin plugs. It is recommended to bring a universal plug adapter.