



VIETNAM & CAMBODIA MEKONG RIVER CRUISE
DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 – Wed 12/31/25

Arrive at Siem Reap Angkor International Airport (SAI), where you will be greeted by a Brand g representative, who will transfer you to the elegant and serene Sofitel Angkor Hotel. Ring in the new year early with a meet and greet around 5:30 for those who have arrived, followed by a festive New Year's Eve celebration dinner at the hotel, featuring an extensive buffet dinner as well as traditional Apsara dancing and performances by Phare, the Cambodian Circus. (Welcome Reception)



Day 2 – Thurs 1/1/26

You'll begin your day at Angkor Wat, the most recognizable landmark in Cambodia, and the largest religious monument in the world, with the longest continuous bas-relief sculpture in existence. Enjoy lunch at a local Khmer restaurant. This afternoon, tour the city center of Siem Reap by tuk tuk (motorcycle rickshaw) for an introduction to Siem Reap's many dining and shopping options, and a stop at a traditional artists' workshop. Enjoy the evening and dinner at your leisure. (Breakfast/Lunch)



Day 3 – Fri 1/2/26

This morning, you have the opportunity to rise early to take part in the optional Bakeng Hill Sunrise and Gondola Boat Ride offered in the Add-ons section. Then after you'll join the rest of the group as we enter through the south gate of Angkor Thom for a guided tour of Bayon (the temple with the faces), then walk around the back of Bauphoun, and along the Terrace of the Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper King. We continue to visit Ta Prohm, which has been overtaken by the jungle, with tentacle-like tree roots spilling over centuries-old walls and roofs, enveloping much of the structure. Then enjoy lunch in a local restaurant. This afternoon, you'll visit Banteay Srey, considered to be the pinnacle of artistic achievement at Angkor, and Banteay Samré. Tonight, enjoy dinner with the group at a local restaurant. (Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner)



Day 4 – Sat 1/3/26

This morning is yours to relax and enjoy the hotel property or do some last minute shopping. Late morning we travel to Kampong Cham, with lunch en route, to embark the ship. Following the informative Welcome Briefing, and meeting with our friendly crew, a Cambodian-themed dinner is served in the Topaz Dining Room.
(Breakfast/Lunch/Welcome Dinner)



Day 5 –Sun 1/4/26

This morning, you walk up the hill* to the local monastery of Wat Hanchey and receive a traditional Buddhist Water Blessing from the resident monks. After enjoying a walk around the monastery and the amazing views of the Mekong River valley, you descend 303 steps and return to the ship.

**For gentle walkers, there is a coach provided to bring you up the hill.*

In the afternoon, we will visit the charming town of Angkor Ban. Here, you will have a glimpse into the lives of the local people, starting with a visit to a family's home to see how the locals live, along with an opportunity to meet the family and discuss their lifestyle. Next, you will continue through the village to the local private school, where you will join the children in their classroom and experience what their typical school day is like. You will then walk back through the village to the ship, with an opportunity to take photos along the way, including a brief stop at the local monastery complex. Late this evening, we arrive and dock in Phnom Penh. (Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner)



Day 6 – Mon 1/5/26

After breakfast on board this morning, guests meet their tuk tuk driver for an exciting morning city tour of Phnom Penh. You are gently transported by your driver along the riverfront to the Royal Palace complex. Here guests enjoy a leisurely walk through the grounds viewing Throne Hall and Moonlight Pavilion, before visiting the famous Silver Pagoda, home of Cambodia's Emerald Buddha and Maitreya Buddha encrusted with more than 9,000 diamonds. After, return to your tuk tuk for the short ride to the National Museum ending the morning with a comprehensive tour of the many Angkorian-period artifacts excavated at the Angkor Temple complex at Siem Reap.

Enjoy the afternoon in Phnom Penh on your own or spend some time shopping at the Central Market with a scheduled shuttle coach with your local guide provided from the port to the market.

This evening, before dinner, children entertain guests on our Sun Deck with a cultural performance including Apsara, Cambodia's national dance as well as local traditional folk dances. (Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner)



Day 7 – Tues 1/6/26

This morning, learn more about the darkest days of Cambodian history. After a scenic 45-minute drive from the ship, you arrive at the Choeung Ek killing fields, where you may walk through the fields, visit the small museum and Memorial Stupa, and learn more about the atrocities committed during the Khmer Rouge regime. Before returning to the ship, tour Tuol Sleng (also known as S-21), the former school converted to the main prison and torture headquarters of the Khmer Rouge.

After returning to the ship, enjoy another free afternoon in Phnom Penh – shopping or dining at one of the many wonderful restaurants, or exploring the city independently. You may also have the opportunity for an optional cooking class this afternoon.

This evening after dinner, we'll have an optional excursion to explore the nightlife of Phnom Penh, possibly including some of the gay nightlife. (Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner)



Day 8 – Wed 1/7/26

This morning, we sail downstream to the Cambodia/Vietnam border for border crossing formalities. Enjoy a leisurely cruise, taking in the sights along the Mekong River. Some activities will be offered on board, as well.

This afternoon, we arrive to Long Khanh Island, where we'll visit the local island village of Hong Ngu, not far from the Vietnam- Cambodia border. Hong Ngu produces a large number of the traditional, Khmer scarves exported to Cambodia. Woven in many homes around the village, you will have the opportunity to see the weaving process under several homes. Some villagers are also embroidery artists, displaying their art in and around the homes. The inhabitants of this area had only encountered one western visitor prior to the arrival of the Mekong Jewel, and are especially friendly and welcoming. Before returning to the sampans, visit a temple dedicated to a unique form of Buddhism called Hoa Hao, which focuses on aiding the poor. (Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner)



Day 9 – Thurs 1/8/26

This morning, sampans will bring you Gieng Island with visit to a local village where hundreds of sampans and rowing boats are made daily. Experience a sampan cruise to untouched canal and finally visiting to Phanxico monastery built in 1879 right after the Notre Dame Cathedral in Saigon in 1863. You will have a chance to interact with a local priest at the Cathedral (subject to his availability).

After lunch, we arrive to Sa Dec, where your sampans return for a leisurely, scenic navigation of the narrow canals of the Mekong, where you will observe daily routines of the villagers en route to the historic town of Sa Dec. A stop is planned at a Cao Dai Temple, but a visit is depending on the Rivers water-level and accessible disembarkation area. In the town of Sa Dec you'll have an external visit the home of Mr. Huynh Thuy Le (now launching a 6-month renovation), the inspiration of Marguerite Duras' novel, *L'Amant* (The Lover), and walk through the town's market, experiencing the sights, sounds, smells, and wonderful photo opportunities found in the colorful fresh produce, meat, and live fish and seafood for sale. Visit Kien An Cung, where you will enjoy the "unicorn dance", a unique dance in celebrations of Vietnam and in Asia. The ship will sail to Vinh Long this evening.

(Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner)



Day 10 – Fri 1/9/26

This morning, we board our sampans to visit a traditional rice factory where workers produce rice paper, rice wine, popped rice, and many varieties of traditional candies.

This afternoon, following lunch, we arrive to the Tien Long area, and once again board the classically built sampans to explore the narrow canals and backwaters of this famed region. Tien Loi island is the unique excursion that created for our guests only. This untouched island with only a few families settled peacefully on the river. We start visiting the sedge weaving hat, experience how local farmers make the "rooster cages" and decorate bonsais on their gardens and yards. Our next visit to the "tree drafting or transplant" village will be your amazes with lots of gardens drafting "baby trees" on the island. Every year, this island produces millions of small plants, baby trees not only to the Mekong region but the Centre and North of Vietnam. The final "boat rowing" on the untouched canal will be a highlight of the excursion.

In the evening, we gather on the Sun Deck in front of the Le Salon Lounge for a Farewell Reception with the entire crew, before enjoying a Cambodian Farewell Dinner in Le March Dining Room. (Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner)



Day 11 – Sat 1/10/26

After breakfast, bid farewell to the Mekong Jewel and enjoy a scenic drive to Ho Chi Minh City. Here, we begin our tour of the city's incredible French Colonial architecture, including the Notre Dame Cathedral and Central Post Office, and enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Tonight is yours to enjoy at your leisure. (Breakfast/Lunch)



Day 12 – Sun 1/11/26

After breakfast at the hotel this morning, enjoy a tour to the town of Cu Chi, where the local Vietnamese lived underground during the Vietnam war. This incredible complex features underground homes and tunnels, as well as examples of the traps used to maim and kill soldiers. This evening, we bid farewell, with a special farewell dinner. (Breakfast/Dinner)



Day 13 – Mon 1/12/26

Transfer to the airport for your flight home, or continue on to Hanoi with the optional Hanoi and Halong Bay add-on (see Add-ons for details). Hotel check out is at Noon. (Breakfast)