iExpress travel LLC

CST#2059436-40

Cambodia & Vietnam River Cruise Tour

(Land & Cruise Only)

Tour Code: PNHSGN11DCRUISE2010

From

$2,265 per person

Land Only

Price Included (land & cruise only):

- Accommodation with daily breakfast
- Transfers and transportation on tour
- Sightseeing with Local English speaking guide
- Meals indicated in the itinerary (drinks on your own)
- 8 Days 7 Nights downstream on the Jayavarman (Superior Cabin)
- Cold towels & water on sightseeing days.

Price NOT Include:

- Cambodia visa
- Vietnam Visa
- Meals not mentioned in the program
- Drinks/water at included lunches and dinners
- International & other flights
- Overweight luggage
- Travel insurance
- Tips & gratuities

Itinerary:

Day 01 Siem Reap arrival

Day 1: Siem Reap – arrival (L)

Upon arrival at Siem Reap airport, greetings with our guide and then transfer to visit Tonle Sap Greak Lake for floating village, fisherman lifestyle and school and Artisan d'Angkor, the carving center. Overnight in Siem Reap.

Accommodation: Sokha Angkor Resort (Deluxe City View Room)

Day 02 Siem Reap— (Angkor Wat) (B)

Free at leisure until your transfer to the airport for the flight to Siem Reap. Meet your guide and transfer to hotel to check-in. Start exploring the stunning temples by a fun tuk-tuk ride to the intricately carved Khmer ruins at Angkor Wat, one of world's most impressive temple ruins constructed between 9th and 13th centuries. A Khmer scholar who will help you get a better understanding of Khmer history, culture, archeology and civilization leads the trip. See the ancient complex at sunset—it remains enigmatic in twilight.

Accommodation: Sokha Angkor Resort (Deluxe City View Room)

River Cruise Itinerary: (The Jayavarman)

Day 03: Siem Reap— Tonle Sap Lake "Waterworld" **(B, L, D)**

Tonle Sap Lake is the heart of Cambodia. It is filled with more fish than any other lake, and surrounded by vast numbers of rare birds. The water level varies a great deal according to the time of the year and the amount of rainfall recorded. Thus, changes may occur for the different seasons. We will start our journey in either high water or low water.

High water program (approx. between July and middle of December)

At 11:00 AM gather at the meeting point and transfer to The Jayavarman, where the crew is looking forward to embracing our guests. Welcome cocktail and lunch on the cruise liner. The Jayavarman sets sail towards the little known stilt village of Kampong Phluk. Climb aboard small rowing boats and let the local children take you on a tour of this flooded forest. Welcome dinner on the Sun Deck. Mooring and overnight on the lake.

Low water program (approx. between middle of December and June)

At 8 AM, gather at the meeting point and transfer by coach to Prek K'Dam on the Tonle Sap River. Enjoy snacks and cold drinks on the way with a brief stop at Kampong Thom, one of the first settlements in the pre-Angkorian period. Embarkation in Prek K'Dam and welcome cocktail early afternoon. The Jayavarman sets sail upstream towards Kampong Chhnang and the great Tonle Sap Lake. We wind our way through the jungle and as the river narrows, it makes you feel at peace with yourself and the community. Later that evening meet your fellow passengers on board for Welcome Dinner on the Sun Deck.

Day 04: Tonle Sap—Kampong Chhnang—Kampong Cham "Cambodia's province and the wetlands" **(B, L, D)**

High water program

Before the sun rises, The Jayavarman sets sail to cross the Tonle Sap Lake. As the ship is about to exit the lake, the marsh lands exhibit spectacular scenery along the river banks of Kampong Chhnang province. We take a truly wonderful motor boat excursion from Kampong Chhnang to see the wetlands, floating houses and fish farms in the region. Join in on a humanitarian project lead by World Bank Illiteracy projects when we make a stop at a Heritage Line sponsored floating school to interact with the children and teach them some English!

The afternoon cruise will follow the meandering Tonle Sap River, which narrows through leafy swaths of the South East Asian Jungle touching Phnom Penh. In the late afternoon we enter the upper Mekong River bound to Kampong Cham to stop for a walk through a rural village.

Low water program

Kampong Chhnang is a busy rural port town with bustling markets and lots of children to greet us on our way around. We will take a wonderful motor boat excursion into the

wetlands that form the mouth of the river. Here a stunning variety of birdlife may be seen and of considerable interest are the great fish traps, some half a kilometer long, which net a huge tonnage of fish after each monsoon as the fish migrate from the falling lake into the Tonle Sap River. Make a stop at a Heritage Line sponsored floating school to interact with the children and teach them some English! The afternoon cruise will follow the meandering Tonle Sap River, which narrows through leafy swaths of the South East Asian Jungle.

Day 05: Kampong Cham – Wat Hanchey "Monks and hilltops"

Wake up in the wee hours of the morning, truly energized to embark on a journey upriver to the pre-Angkorian temple of Wat Hanchey. Located at the top of a hill overlooking the river, it offers some of the best views in Cambodia. Dating from the 8th century, these ancient structures do justice to the architecture of the Chenla Empire which predated the glories of the mighty Angkor. Enjoy spectacular views of the surrounding well organized rice paddy plains, as well as a travelers blessing performed by the local monks.

After lunch and a short cruise downstream we drop anchor at the shores of Kam pong Cham. Visit Wat Nokor, a wat built within the ruins of an ancient temple that holds a timeless story. Then, travel to the Cheung Kok Ecotourism Village, a small village developed with support from Assistance Médiation Internationale (AMICA). Travelers can visit the village and take part in activities to experience village life. Profits from tourism go towards re-investment into long-term projects. Back on board The Jayavarman sets sail to wards the capital Phnom Penh.

Day 06: Phnom Penh "Pearl of the East" **(B, L, D)**

Get up early in the morning to witness a truly indescribable scene while approaching Phnom Penh's river promenade. After breakfast, embark on a city tour in this dynamic, historical capital of Cambodia which has retained its French colonial charm. Sightseeing in the morning will include the dazzling white and gold architecture of the Royal Palace and the Silver Pagoda, outstanding displays of Khmer crafts at the National Museum and the temple on a hill - Wat Phnom.
After lunch in a local restaurant, examine the painful, heart wrenching reminders of Cambodia's ugly past under the Khmer Rouge regime with an excursion to the Genocide museum to learn more about the Cambodian civil war. Introduction and onsite lecture by a local history professor. Thereafter, to ease the nerves a variety of cocktails will be at your disposal, followed by Cambodia's traditional and opulent Apsara dance performance. Experience the brilliance and richness of the culture, the soothing sounds of traditional music, the calming scent of incense sticks and a delicious Khmer food buffet.

Day 07: Phnom Penh – border crossing (B, L, D)

Wake up to the sun rising over the Mekong for Thai Chi on the Sun Deck. The Jayavarman then casts off for a day of cruising the main Mekong Channel. This is pretty much an international shipping route. Psyche yourself up for Pre-K Touch, a lively jungle village. After that, visit well laid out fruit orchards.
Late afternoon we set off to the Vietnamese border for the usual formalities, which in this part of the world takes a bit of time. During the afternoon cruise, take the time to relax on the Sun Deck, get a massage in the Spa, or take part in Heritage Line's Vietnamese cooking class.
The ship moors midstream overnight

Day 08: Chau Doc – Cai Be "Taste of aqua cultural life" **(B, L, D)**

Welcome to the circus of fish. The early birds will be treated to Thai Chi lessons on the Sun Deck. Brace yourself for a short excursion by trycicle in about 30 minutes. After that you will have a short walk to visit the local market then go by coach to visit Lady Temple. She is the most famous Lady who brings strong spirit to the local in their daily life. Go back to the quay, you will start a boat excursion to the exciting floating villages and catfish farms witnessing masses of basa fish being fed, hand in hand with a shore excursion to the village of the local Muslim Cham community.
By late-afternoon, The Jayavarman casts off, heading towards Cai Be.

Day 9: Cai Be "Vietnamese inventiveness" **(B,L,D)**

Starts with the cruise among local sampans coming from all provinces of the delta full of fruits and vegetables. Proceed to Dong Hoa Hiep island located between Vinh Long and Cai Be. During a 40 minute cruise, discover beautiful landscapes along the river and observe the typical Mekong Delta rural life. These evergreen islands among the Mekong River still remain unknown to many people. Further stops will allow you to see traditional brick and tile factories and how locals use palm leaves for houses. After touring the canals, head to the Ba Duc ancient house to have know the descendants of the former imperial residents. Then you will observe the Cai Be's colorful floating market from Caibe Princess boat. Back on the sampans, cruise 20 minutes further to Phu An hamlet passing by Cai Be's beautiful cathedral. Then, group 1 can stay on boat to go straight to the restaurant while group 2 explores the edges of the canals on bicycle. Lunch will await you at Le Longanier, a superb Indochinese villa located in a lush tropical garden by the river, surrounded by fruit orchards. After lunch the cruise will continue with the visit some interesting home factories to see how rice paste, rice cookies and coconut candies, are made, along with the longan fruit drying process. Board The Jayavarman for a relaxing evening cruise with a Farewell Dinner on the Sun Deck while heading towards My Tho.

Day 10: My Tho "The Upper River" **(B)**

Your cruise with The Jayavarman comes to a close as the ship winds its way to My Tho which is located on the upper Mekong river in Vietnam.

Disembark at around 9:00am and continue your journey in the buzzing city of Saigon.

Day 11: Saigon (B)

Saigon, with more than 8 million inhabitants, is the country's commercial centre. Despite the well-documented hustle and bustle, the city retains its connections to the past. Whilst here, a walking tour to admire Saigon's historic landmarks is a must. Your tour will include a stroll down Rue Catinat made famous in Graham Greene's "The Quiet American". Revealed to you will be colonial classics; the **Opera House**, a three-story classical theatre built to entertain the French colonists (outside visit); the former **Hotel de Ville** constructed for the French bureaucrats of Indochina in 1901, now The People's Committee building (no public access); the **Notre Dame Cathedral**, a stunningly massive red-brick edifice with twin spires, a clear reminder that the French once ruled this city (open only 3-4pm everyday); the **Central Post Office** is delight fully influenced by Renaissance
architecture; and the former **Presidential palace**, headquarters of the Saigon Government during the Vietnam war.
In the afternoon, enjoy a 2-hour-drive north west of Saigon to Cu Chi tunnels, through urbanized areas and a typically lush southern Vietnamese countryside. The Cu Chi tunnel complex was dug in 1948 for guerrillas to hide from French air and ground sweeps. It also served as communication routes and food and weapon caches as well as hospitals and living quarters for guerrilla fighters throughout the American war. Visit the underground villages with a **VC veteran** who used to live there, to better understand the tunnels' history, life in the tunnels and the Vietnamese's resilience during the combats. Interact with the veteran and find out about his experience living in the subterraneous hamlets where lack of air, food and water can made life unbearable. Your guide will be there to translate the veteran's experiences. Return to Saigon.

Accommodation: Caravelle/Deluxe room

Day 12: Saigon departure (B)

Free until transfer to airport for your flight home.

Noted:

- Above price is land & cruise only based on double occupancy .
- Single supplement 200% of tour price.
- Guarantee departure for 2 people.

Disclaimer: Although prices are current at the time of printing or listing, but may change without prior notice. Therefore, prices may differ when you book your travel, and are not guaranteed until full payment is received. Please call for our most current prices. Please refer to Terms & Condition on this web.

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