



Pandaw River Expeditions

EXPEDITION No 1

CLASSIC MEKONG

7 NIGHTS

There can be no tapestry of river life as fascinating and varied as the River Mekong. Indeed there can be no more striking a cultural contrast as that between the bustling Vietnam delta and the tranquility of Cambodia. We pass from the vibrant French colonial port of Saigon, through the vast delta so rich in human life and endeavour, to travel along the main channel into the rich countryside of Cambodia. With a full day in charming Phnom Penh we then explore remoter waterways as we progress to the great monuments of Angkor.

YOUR SHIP - [RV MEKONG PANDAW](#) / [RV TONLE PANDAW](#)

[MORE IMAGES OF THE RV MEKONG PANDAW](#)

[MORE IMAGES OF THE RV TONLE PANDAW](#)

Cruise Price Includes: Entrance fees, guide services (English language), gratuities to crew, main meals, local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes. Transfers between the meeting point and the ship at the start and end of a voyage.

Cruise Price Excludes: International flights, port dues (if levied), laundry, all visa costs, fuel surcharges (see terms and conditions), all beverages except local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes and tips to tour guides, local guides, bus drivers, boat operators and cyclo drivers.

UPSTREAM ITINERARY

DAY 1

SAIGON TO MY THO

Transfer from the meeting point in Saigon to My Tho Port. After boarding your Pandaw we sail downstream to Ben Tre and anchor midstream. In the afternoon, there is a lecture on Vietnamese life on the Mekong Delta. During cocktail hour passengers are entertained by an indigenous dance group and meet your key crew.

[MORE ABOUT SAIGON](#)

DAY 2

BEN TRE

Travel by sampans through mangroves and bamboo groves to the fruit orchards of Ben Tre. In these local artisans are at work and are invite visitors into their homes for tea, fruit and honey products made from their own honey. This is an area rich in bird life and on our return journey we travel by horse cart through the lush countryside. After lunch, the ship moors off Cho Lach island for pot making and further glimpses of Delta life, agriculture and local Viet hospitality including a culinary lesson in making traditional Banh Xeo.

DAY 3**CON PHUOC ISLAND**

After breakfast, there is a short coach journey to the Gao Giong 'green oasis' with its bird sanctuary. Here a diverse selection of water and egrets that gather in the tens of thousands across the Duong Tharp Muoi or 'Plain of Reeds'. Rowing boats traverse the canals to take us to see the principal nesting areas. After returning to the boat we cruise upstream to Con Phuoc Island. We Moor in a small canal off Con Phuoc Island and go ashore to explore the island by Xi Loi seeing basket production and visiting a 100-year old Catholic Church as well as local woodworking artisans.

DAY 4**CAMBODIA BORDER**

Afternoon, explore the labyrinthine canal system around Tan Chau to visit a Taoist temple where the monks will read fortunes. Continue through local villages by Xi Loi stopping off to help locals tend their fields before stopping off to visit a fish farm and earn merit by releasing fish back into the Mekong. Border crossing formalities take up much of the afternoon and during this stationary period there is an optional tour of the working ship and fruit carving classes on deck.

DAY 5**PHNOM PENH**

Morning orientation of Phnom Penh by cyclo visiting the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda followed by the National Museum with its marvelous collection of Angkorian statuary. Afternoon optional visit to the Killing Fields and Genocide museum or take a tuk-tuk to explore the riverfront and finish with High Tea at Raffles Hotel. Overnight in Phnom Penh city port with its lively bars, restaurants and night life.

[MORE ABOUT PHNOM PENH](#)

DAY 6**SILK ISLAND**

Sail up the Tonle River to board our expedition vessel, the Pandaw Explorer, to visit Koh Okhna Tey, or 'silk island' to study the entire silk making process from worms to weavers. There will be a demonstration of the ancient Khmer martial art of Bokator. Return to ship and return down the Tonle River to turn up the Mekong at the confluence. Evening lecture on Angkor and Khmer culture.

DAY 7

KRATIE AND THE DOLPHIN GROUNDS

Morning visit to Koh Trong Island a small Mekong River hamlet which can be explored by bicycle or ox cart with a real immersion into Khmer rural life visiting local schools and English classes then visiting a reforestation site where you can leave your mark by planting your own tree. Passengers should feel free to donate items for use in the schools such as books & pens etc. After lunch, moor off Kratie and continue to the dolphin grounds by local boat where we will observe the elusive Irrawaddy Dolphins.

[MORE ABOUT KRATIE](#)

DAY 8

SIEM REAP

Sail downstream to moor at Kampong Cham for disembarkation and road transfer to Siem Reap.

[MORE ABOUT SIEM REAP](#)

STATEROOM

The Pandaw stateroom is the most celebrated feature of our ships.

Finished in brass and teak, the main and upper deck rooms are very spacious at 168 square feet (15.6 sqm). Much loved by all our passengers we have ensured that with each ship we build the stateroom remains the same. Our cabins do not have mini-bars, satellite TV's, internet or phones. Pandaw passengers usually want to escape from the tiresome features found in international business hotels.

Many passengers describe life on board a Pandaw more like being a guest on a private motor yacht than a cruise ship. Where we go and what we see is intrepid in extreme. What you come back to is a floating base of discreet comfort, caring service and all the good things one looks for in life. All our cabins have the same size and Pandaw signature amenities. Choose from Main Deck, Upper Deck or Premium Upper Deck (Mekong only).

Special to Your Stateroom

- Fruit and flowers on arrival
- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Unlimited mineral water

PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

ARRIVAL IN SAIGON

Arrive in Saigon. Transfer to hotel . Free time in Saigon. Overnight Saigon

DAY 2

SAIGON CITY TOUR - CUCHI TUNNELS (L)

In the morning, drive to the extraordinary Cu Chi tunnels, about 65 Km (1.5 hours drive) from Sai Gon. The complicated system of underground network was built by the Viet Cong guerillas. En route, you have chance to see rural people live and work. View occupations such as cashew nut farming, duck breeding, rice farming and production of rice paper, a key ingredient in Vietnamese cuisine.

Around 11.30am return to Sai Gon for lunch. In the afternoon, visit the Reunification Hall, Notre Dame Cathedral, General Post Office, Former US Embassy, City Hall and War Museum of Remnants. End the day with shopping at Ben Thanh market.

DAY 3

DEPARTURE

Breakfast at hotel. Free time until departure.



5 STAR

Saigon & Surroundings (InterContinental Asiana)

This hotel boasts 305 elegantly appointed rooms, bespoke treatments at Spa InterContinental and three international restaurants. This 5-star luxury Ho Chi Minh City hotel is located in the city centre, just a short stroll to famous landmarks such as Notre Dame Cathedral and Saigon Opera House. The Tan Son Nhat International Airport is 7 km away.

Rates include:

One way transfer (airport to hotel or hotel to airport), two nights accommodation at InterContinental Asiana Saigon Hotel with daily breakfast, one lunch at local restaurant and excursion as per itinerary.

Note

- Please advise arrival/ departure flight details in order to arrange the transfer accordingly
- Check out time from hotel at 1200hrs

* Please note that your hotel will be confirmed after we have received your deposit payment. Prices are subject to change. Hotel subject to availability. We will try to offer you an alternate accommodation if the requested hotel would not be available.

INTERCONTINENTAL ASIANA SAIGON HOTEL

39 Le Duan

Ben Nghe

Ho Chi Minh City

Vietnam

Tel: +84 8 3520 9999

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

ARRIVAL IN HUE

Welcome to Vietnam. After arrival at Hue Airport meet your guide and driver for the transfer to your hotel. Rest of day at leisure.

Meals: none.

DAY 2

HUE

This morning we take a boat on the serene Perfume River to the best known pagoda in Middle Vietnam, Thien Mu. We then pay a visit to the impressive tomb of former Emperor Tu Duc and a beautiful garden once belonging to royalty followed by a royal style lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, visit Hue citadel including Moon Gate, Thai Hoa Palace, Royal Urns and the ruins of the Forbidden Purple City.

Meals: Breakfast at the Hotel, Lunch at local restaurant.

DAY 3

HUE - HOI AN

After breakfast we leave Hue for Hoian. En route we pause to unwind on top of the Ocean Clouds Pass, on the Non Nuoc Beach and then visit the fascinating Cham Museum. We then proceed to the quaint town of Hoian for check in and to relax. In the afternoon, there is time to explore this charming and wonderfully preserved merchant town that retains Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese and European influences from its flourishing old days.

Meals: Breakfast at the hotel.

DAY 4

HOI AN

Day at leisure. Explore the beautiful old town of Hoi An or relax at the beach.

Meals: Breakfast at hotel.

DAY 5

HOI AN - DANANG - SAIGON

Transfer to the airport for a flight from Danang 08.00 to Saigon 09.25 (flight times subject to change). Upon arrival, drive to the extraordinary Cu Chi tunnels, about 65 Km (1½ hours' drive) from Saigon. This complicated underground network was built by Viet Cong guerillas. En route, you have the chance to see how rural people live and work such as cashew nut farming, duck breeding, rice farming and production of rice paper, a key ingredient in Vietnamese cuisine. After lunch in a local restaurant, return to Saigon. In the afternoon, visit to Reunification Hall, Notre Dame Cathedral, General Post Office, Former US Embassy, City Hall, War Museum of Remnants. Shopping at Ben Thanh market.

Meals: Breakfast at hotel, Lunch at local restaurant.

DAY 6

SAIGON DEPARTURE

Morning at leisure. Transfer with your fellow Pandaw passengers to My Tho to embark your ship.

Meals: Breakfast at Hotel.



DISCOVER

Vietnam's Heritage Road, Hue - Hoi An - Saigon 5 nights Pre Tour

Hue and Hoi An are two of Vietnam's scenic and historic highlights and a 'must see' on most people's visit to this most wonderful country. Our trip includes a fascinating ride along the Perfume River and a visit to the enormous Hue Citadel. Hoi An is best explored independently and retains a charming village feel which comes alive after sunset with the glow of red lanterns and the senses of Asia. And, of course, plenty of time to relax at your beach resort.

We are pleased to offer a pre and post extension including connecting domestic flight, all transfers, excursions in Hue, a scenic journey from Hue to Hoi An and a 2-night stay in Hoi An. You will be staying in a delightful selection of boutique hotels. It is possible to extend your stay in Hoi An if required.

Your trip ends in the Oriental Pearl Saigon with tour and overnight stay before your cruise.

This is a Pandaw group tour.

Rates include:

English speaking guide on tours, 2x lunch at local restaurant, economy one-way domestic air ticket Danang to Saigon, 2 nights at Victoria Hoi An

(Deluxe Garden Room), 2 nights at Pilgrimage Village Hue (Deluxe Room), 1 night at InterContinental Asiana (Deluxe Room), transportation by AC vehicle, daily breakfast, and entrance fees.

Rates exclude:

International flights, visa, travel insurance, not mentioned beverages and meal.

Compulsory dinner

- Christmas 24Dec: Victoria USD 88.- / Pilgrimage USD 70.- per person
- New Year's Eve 31Dec: Victoria USD 97.- / Pilgrimage USD 70.- per person

Note

- Please advice arrival flight details in order to arrange the transfer accordingly
- Check in time at hotel is 1400hrs
- Check out time from hotel at 1200hrs
- Early check in and late check out are subject to hotel room availability

* Please note that your hotel will be confirmed after we have received your deposit payment. Prices are subject to change. Hotel subject to availability. We will try to offer you alternative accommodation if the requested hotel is not available.

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

ARRIVAL SIEM REAP - ANGKOR WAT

Our guide will pick you up at Siem Reap International airport or harbour, then transfer to your hotel for check in. After lunch at the hotel, visit the famous temple of Cambodia, Angkor Wat. It is visually, architecturally and artistically breathtaking. Its massive three tiered pyramid crowned by five beehive-like towers rising 65 meters from ground level. This temple is the centerpiece of any visit to the temples of Angkor. Take in the romantic view at sun set from Bakheng Hill. Overnight at hotel.

Meals: Lunch at your hotel.

DAY 2

SIEM REAP - ANGKOR THOM

Breakfast in hotel. With airconditioned car and guide visit South Gate of Angkor Thom, Bayon, Baphoun, Terrace of Elephant, Terrace of Leper King and Pimean Akas. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit Thommanon, Chau Say Teveda, Ta Keo, Ta Promh, Banteay Kdei and Sras Srang. In the evening experience a highlight and meet talented young performers in a breathtaking, entertaining and original Cambodian show at Phare Ponleu Selpak's Circus. Pandaw guests receive a special VIP treatment. Overnight at hotel.

Meals: Breakfast at your hotel, Lunch at local restaurant.

DAY 3

SIEM REAP - PREAH KHAN - DEPARTURE

After breakfast travel by airconditioned car to visit Preah Khan, Neak Pean, Ta Som, East Meborn. Transfer to the airport or to harbour.

Meals: Breakfast at your hotel.



DISCOVER

Exploring Angkor (Victoria Resort)

Victoria Resort. This is a private tour.

Rates include:

One way transfer (airport to hotel or hotel to airport), two nights accommodation at Victoria Angkor Resort and Spa with daily breakfast, one lunch at the hotel and one lunch at local restaurant and excursion as per itinerary.

Note

- Please advice arrival/departure flight details in order to arrange the transfer accordingly

- Visa on arrival to Cambodia not inclusive (USD 30 per person downstream if arriving at Siem Reap Airport, USD 35 upstream if crossing the water border between Vietnam/Cambodia)
- Check out time from hotel at 1200hrs
- Compulsory meals: Christmas Eve Gala Dinner (24DEC) USD 105.- per person and New Year's Eve Dinner (31DEC) USD 127.- per person

* Please note that your hotel will be confirmed after we have received your deposit payment. Prices are subject to change. Hotel subject to availability. We will try to offer you an alternate accommodation if the requested hotel would not be available.

VICTORIA ANGKOR RESORT & SPA

Central Park

P.O. Box 93145

Siem Reap Town

Kingdom of Cambodia

Tel: +855 63 760 428

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

ARRIVAL SIEM REAP - ANGKOR WAT

The hotel is providing a Tuk Tuk transfer from either the airport or the drop off point at Victoria. After lunch at the hotel, visit the famous temple of Cambodia, Angkor Wat. It is visually, architecturally and artistically breathtaking. Its massive three tiered pyramid crowned by five beehive-like towers rising 65 meters from ground level. This temple is the centerpiece of any visit to the temples of Angkor. Take in the romantic view at sun set from Bakheng Hill. Overnight at hotel.

Meals: Lunch at your hotel.

DAY 2

SIEM REAP - ANGKOR THOM

Breakfast in hotel. With airconditioned car and guide visit South Gate of Angkor Thom, Bayon, Baphoun, Terrace of Elephant, Terrace of Leper King and Pimean Akas. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit Thommanon, Chau Say Teveda, Ta Keo, Ta Promh, Banteay Kdei and Sras Srang. In the evening experience a highlight and meet talented young performers in a breathtaking, entertaining and original Cambodian show at Phare Ponleu Selpak's Circus. Pandaw guests receive a special VIP treatment. Overnight at hotel.

Meals: Breakfast at your hotel, Lunch at local restaurant.

DAY 3

SIEM REAP - PREAH KHAN - DEPARTURE

After breakfast travel by airconditioned car to visit Preah Khan, Neak Pean, Ta Som, East Meborn. Tuk Tuk transfer by the hotel to either the meeting point at Victoria Resort or the airport.

Meals: Breakfast at your hotel.



DISCOVER

Exploring Angkor (Jaya House Riverpark)

Jaya House Riverpark This is a private tour.

Rates include:

One way transfer (airport to hotel or hotel to airport), two nights accommodation at Jaya House Riverpark with daily breakfast, one lunch at the hotel and one lunch at local restaurant and excursion as per itinerary.

Note

- Please advice arrival/departure flight details in order to arrange the

transfer accordingly

- Visa on arrival to Cambodia not inclusive (USD 30 per person downstream if arriving at Siem Reap Airport, USD 35 upstream if crossing the water border between Vietnam/Cambodia)
- Check out time from hotel at 1200hrs

* Please note that your hotel will be confirmed after we have received your deposit payment. Prices are subject to change. Hotel subject to availability. We will try to offer you an alternate accommodation if the requested hotel would not be available.

JAYA HOUSE RIVERPARK

River Road

Treang Village

Siem Reap - Slor Kram Commune

Tel: +855 639 62 555

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

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 Pandaw 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!

Useful Links

[Terms & Conditions](#)

[General Information & Life on Board](#)

[Visa Information](#)