



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.

DOWNSTREAM ITINERARY

DAY 1

SIEM REAP - KAMPONG CHHNANG

Morning pick up from your hotel in Siem Reap to travel through the local countryside, skirting the Tonle Sap Lake, before arriving in Kampong Chhnang to embark your Pandaw vessel and the commencement of your adventure. Enjoy your first lunch on board.

[MORE ABOUT SIEM REAP](#)

DAY 2

KAMPONG CHHNANG - TONLE SAP FLOATING VILLAGES & MARKETS

After breakfast we board our Tender Boat "Pandaw Explorer" to visit the famous Tonle Sap Floating Villages & Markets, observing locals fishing and tending their floating vegetable gardens. We then cruise back to Kampong Chhnang City and disembark our Tender for a walk along the newly constructed River Walkway. Upon returning to the ship, we navigate the very narrow canals of the Tonle Sap River and get up close & personal with the local riverside villagers. After lunch, we board our local limousines (Ox-Carts) for a meander along the Tonle Sap River visiting local villages, markets and temples. Tonight, we will host our Cocktail Hour around a fire pit in one of the local Khmer Villages where we will join the villagers dancing and learning about the local culture.

DAY 3**SILK ISLAND**

After a short morning cruise along the Tonle Sap River we will disembark at Kampong Trolach and travel by coach to the Ancient Capital of Cambodia, Oudong. We visit the Vipassana Dhura Meditation Centre for a morning of relaxation & meditation before taking a drive around the old capital. After lunch we visit Koh Nghe Tei (Silk Island) to study the entire silk-making process from worms to weavers. You will have the chance to visit local silk purveyors and purchase the locally made products before we enjoy a demonstration of the ancient martial art of L'bokator. L'bokator, which roughly translates as 'pounding a lion' includes weapons techniques and is one of the oldest existing fighting systems in Cambodia. Oral tradition indicates that L'bokator, or an earlier form thereof, was the close quarter combat system used by the armies before Angkor 1,700 years ago.

DAY 4**PHNOM PENH**

We dock in the Cambodian Capital of Phnom Penh where we will partake in a morning orientation of the city by cyclo, visiting the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda followed by the National Museum with its marvellous collection of Angkorian statuary. In the afternoon, we visit the Killing Fields and Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum to learn about the tragic history of the area and local people. Optional half-day and full-day tours are available during our stay in Phnom Penh at extra cost. Please contact us in advance or see your in-cabin information manual for further details. Overnight in Phnom Penh city port with its lively bars, restaurants and nightlife.

[MORE ABOUT PHNOM PENH](#)

DAY 5**CAMBODIA/VIETNAM BORDER - CHAU DOC - SAM MOUNTAIN**

We up anchor early morning and cruise downstream along the Mekong River to the Cambodia/Vietnam Border to undergo Immigration Formalities. After lunch our boat docks alongside the picturesque border town of Chau Doc where we visit the famous floating markets & fish farms by Sampan. We make a stop at a local Chham Village and observe the lives of these local Vietnamese Muslims before boarding minivans for a short drive to Sam Mountain, location of Phuoc Dien Tu or the Hang Pagoda. We climb the 400 steps to the top to visit the pagoda, proclaimed an 'official historic monument' on 10th July 1980 by the Ministry of Culture and Information of Vietnam. In the evening feel free to wander along the Chau Doc Riverside.

DAY 6**GAO GIONG**

Early morning, we leave Chau Doc and travel through the canals of the delta as locals awake to a hive of activity. After lunch, we drop anchor upstream of Cao Lanh and take a short coach journey through the lush countryside to Gao Giong 'green oasis', a 1,000-acre eucalyptus forest and listed wildlife sanctuary. Here a diverse selection of water birds and egrets gather in their tens of thousands across the Duong Tharp Muoi or 'Plain of Reeds'. Rowboats traverse the canals to take us to view the principal nesting areas where photo opportunities abound.

DAY 7**BEN TRE**

A morning of sailing passing towns such as Sadec & Cai Be provides an insight into life along this mighty waterway. After lunch, we travel by sampans through mangroves and bamboo forests to the fruit orchards of Ben Tre. This is an area rich in birdlife which we will explore via local transport before transferring to a rowboat. We will journey slowly through the bamboo covered canals before arriving at a village specialising in coconut candy & rice wine. Here you can view the process of manufacturing these specialities and try them for yourself, including the local "Moonshine." In the evening you will be entertained by a Vietnamese Cultural Group highlighting "Life on the Mekong Delta."

DAY 8**MY THO - SAIGON**

We disembark our Pandaw Boat and travel by coach from My Tho City through the countryside to your hotel in Saigon.

[MORE ABOUT SAIGON](#)

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 SIEM REAP - ANGKOR

Our guide will pick you up at Siem Reap International airport or local Hotel in Siem Reap , transfer to Victoria Angkor Resort & Spa for lunch then check in hotel. 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 and Pimean Akas. Take in the romantic view at sun set from Bakheng Hill. Overnight at hotel.

Meals: Lunch at hotel.

DAY 2

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 Preah Khan, NeakPean.

After lunch at a local restaurant, visit Thommanon, Chau Say Teveda, Ta Keo, Ta Promh, BanteayKdei and SrasSrang & East Meborn. In the evening experience a highlight and meet talented young performers in a breathtaking, entertaining and original Cambodian show at PharePonleuSelpak's Circus.

Pandaw guests receive a special VIP treatment.

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

DAY 3

ANGKOR - DEPARTURE

Check out the hotel and transfer to Victoria Angkor Resort for check in point.

Meals: Breakfast at your hotel.



DISCOVER

Exploring Angkor (Victoria Resort) Pre Tour

Victoria Resort. This is a private tour.

Rates include:

One way transfer (airport to hotel and hotel to ship), two nights accommodation at Victoria Angkor Resort and Spa, meals 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](#)

PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

ARRIVAL SIEM REAP - ANGKOR

Our guide will pick you up at Siem Reap International airport or local Hotel in Siem Reap, then transfer to Jaya House Hotel for lunch then 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 and Pimean Akas. Take in the romantic view at sun set from Bakheng Hill. Overnight at hotel.

Meals: Dinner at hotel.

DAY 2

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 Preah Khan, NeakPean.

After lunch at a local restaurant, visit Thommanon, Chau Say Teveda, Ta Keo, Ta Promh, BanteayKdei and SrasSrang & East Meborn. In the evening experience a highlight and meet talented young performers in a breathtaking, entertaining and original Cambodian show at PharePonleuSelpak's Circus. Pandaw guests receive a special VIP treatment.

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

DAY 3

ANGKOR - DEPARTURE

Check out the hotel and transfer to Victoria Angkor Resort for check in point.

Meals: Breakfast at your hotel.



DISCOVER

Exploring Angkor (Jaya House Riverpark) Pre Tour

Jaya House Riverpark This is a private tour.

Rates include:

One way transfer (airport to hotel and hotel to ship), two nights accommodation at Jaya House Riverpark, meals 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](#)

POST-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.

Airport Arrival Transfer Notes

Please take note your driver/guide will be waiting for you at Column No 12 outside the arrival area (either the International Arrival area or Domestic Arrival area, depending on your flight). Upon exiting the Arrival Terminal please look for column No 12. In case you do not see the driver/guide at column No 12, please call the Pandaw hotline number and remain standing at the column No 12 in order for the guide/driver to locate you. Please be on the lookout for the Pandaw welcome sign in front of Column No 12.

INTERCONTINENTAL ASIANA SAIGON HOTEL

39 Le Duan

Ben Nghe

Ho Chi Minh City

Vietnam

Tel: +84 8 3520 9999

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

DISEMBARKATION - SAIGON CITY TOUR - CU CHI TUNNELS

Arrive InterContinental Asiana after disembarkation. Upon arrival at InterCon Asiana Saigon, meet your local guide and drive to extraordinary Cu Chi tunnels, about 65 Km (1.5 hours drive) from Sai Gon. The complicated system of underground network was built by 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. After lunch in 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 ship. Lunch at local restaurant

DAY 2

SAIGON - HUE

A morning flight from Saigon to Hue. Arrive Hue airport, meet your local guide and transfer to the hotel. The balance of the day is free at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast at the hotel

DAY 3

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 4

HUE - HOI AN

After breakfast, we leave Hue for Hoi An. 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 Hoi An 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 5

HOI AN

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

Meals: Breakfast at hotel

DAY 6

HOI AN - DEPARTURE

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

Breakfast at hotel



DISCOVER

Vietnam's Heritage Road, Saigon - Hue - Hoi An 5 night Post Tour

Start this extension after your cruise at Saigon with a two-night stay and full day tour of the city.

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.

It is possible to extend your stay in Hoi An if required.

This is a Pandaw group tour.

Rates include:

English speaking guide on tours, 2x lunch at local restaurant, economy one-way domestic air ticket Saigon to Hue, 1 night at InterContinental Asiana (Deluxe Room), 2 nights at Pilgrimage Village Hue (Deluxe Room), 2 nights at Victoria Hoi An (Deluxe Garden 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 advise 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.

Airport Arrival Transfer Notes

Please take note your driver/guide will be waiting for you at Column No 12 outside the arrival area (either the International Arrival area or Domestic Arrival area, depending on your flight). Upon exiting the Arrival Terminal please look for column No 12. In case you do not see the driver/guide at column No 12, please call the Pandaw hotline number and remain standing at the column No 12 in order for the guide/driver to locate you. Please be on the lookout for the Pandaw welcome sign in front of Column No 12.

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](#)