



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

Embark on your Pandaw at Kampong Cham following a road transfer from Siem Reap (Angkor). The vessel will proceed upstream to moor midstream for cocktails and to meet key crew.

[MORE ABOUT SIEM REAP](#)

DAY 2

WAT HANCHEY, OBT CHIRO VILLAGE & WAT NOKOR BACHEY

Sunrise cruise to Wat Hanchey an important centre of worship during the Chenla period located on top of a hill above the mighty Mekong River with some of the best Mekong views in Cambodia. Visit 8th century structures some destroyed by American bombings during the Vietnam War. Well noted for its bizarre Fruit and Animal statues.

We cruise back downstream to Kampong Cham where after lunch we travel by Bus to the local OBT Chiro Village where the education of local children is high on the agenda. Pre-Hospitality training courses, plastic recycling, bee keeping, farming and handicraft skill projects are set up to improve the skill set of local children. We then travel to the Wat Nokor Bachey dating back to the Jayarvaman VII period. Built completely from Black Sandstone which makes it stand out from other temples built during this period. Many legends surround this complex one being it was built by a king who accidentally killed his father then married his mother as per Greek legend. This temple was built in penance for his crime.

DAY 3

SILK ISLAND

Sail down the Mekong/Tonle River convergence 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 cruise downstream towards Phnom Penh. Evening lecture on Angkor and Khmer culture.

DAY 4**PHNOM PENH**

Morning orientation of Phnom Penh by cyclo visiting the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda followed by the National Museum with its marvellous 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 5**VIETNAM BORDER**

Early sailing to the Vietnam border for formalities and during this stationary period there is an optional tour of the working ship and fruit carving classes on deck. 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.

DAY 6**CON PHUOC ISLAND**

In the morning sail up a small canal to moor off Con Phuoc Island and go ashore to explore the island by tuk-tuk seeing basket production and visiting a 100-year old Catholic Church and local woodworking artisans.

After a short cruise downstream in the afternoon we take a short coach trip where we visit Gao Giong 'green oasis' with its bird sanctuary. Here a diverse selection of water birds 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.

DAY 7**BEN TRE**

After breakfast 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. Upon return to the boat we take a cruise downstream to Ben Tre. Where we 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.

DAY 8

MY THO TO SAIGON

Moor at My Tho for road transfer to 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 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 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, NeakPeon.

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](#)

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ANGKOR - DEPARTURE

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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.

Saigon (HCMC) International Airport Arrival Transfer Notes

Please take note your driver/guide will be waiting for you at Column No 12 outside the International Arrival area. Upon exiting the International Arrival Terminal please turn right towards 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

ARRIVAL IN SAIGON

Disembark from your ship. Upon arrival at your hotel, 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 on ship, Lunch at local restaurant.

DAY 2

SAIGON - HUE

Transfer to airport and morning flight Saigon to Hue. Rest of day at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast at 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 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 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

DEPARTURE

Morning at leisure. Transfer to Danang airport.

Meals: Breakfast at hotel.



DISCOVER

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

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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](#)