



Pandaw Cruises

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.

HIGH WATER NOTICE: During the months September to November, water levels may rise significantly leading to issues accessing the Tonle Sap River. During this time, we may replace itinerary points on the Tonle Sap with sailing north to Kratie and excursions at the dolphin grounds.

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

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

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

Cruise Price Includes: Entrance fees, guide services (English language), gratuities to crew, main meals, local mineral water, juggled 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 CHAM

Travel by coach from Siem Reap to Kampong Cham for embarkation. Enjoy an sunset cruise on the Mekong and meet your crew for the next 7 nights.

[MORE ABOUT SIEM REAP](#)

DAY 2

ANGKOR BAN VILLAGE WALKS - SILK ISLAND

In the morning we visit Angkor Ban and a local Cambodian school where the local library was built with the support of Pandaw and our guests. Guests are encouraged to bring books to donate to the library for children to read. After lunch, we study the entire silk making process from worms to weavers as we visit 'Silk Island'. After learning about the silk process there will be a demonstration of the ancient Khmer martial art of Bokator.

[MORE ABOUT SILK ISLAND](#)

DAY 3

LOUDONG - KAMPONG TRALACH

In the morning, travel by coach to the ancient capital of Cambodia, Oudong. On the way we stop to visit the Vipassana Dhura Meditation Centre before taking a drive around the city. Rejoin your ship in Kampong Tralach for lunch aboard. In the afternoon we travel by ox-cart around the river-side villages, markets and temples. In the evening cocktails are round a village fire pit where we will be joined by village folk keen to show us their traditional dancing and more of the delightful 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 marvelous collection of Angkorian statuary. In the afternoon we visit the Killing Fields and Genocide museum to learn more about the brutal Khmer Rouge regime. Overnight in Phnom Penh city port with its lively bars, restaurants and night life.

[MORE ABOUT PHNOM PENH](#)

DAY 5**VIETNAM BORDER – CHAU DOC**

We up anchor early in the morning and cruise downstream along the Mekong River to the Vietnam border for immigration formalities. The ship sails to Chau Doc then. Evening lion dance takes place onboard.

DAY 6**CHAU DOC - CON PHUOC ISLAND**

In the morning, taking 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. Then we go alongside at the picturesque border town of Chau Doc where we visit the floating fish farms by sampan. We make a stop at a Chham Village and observe the lives of Vietnamese Muslims.

After onboard lunch, the ship sails to Con Phuoc for the shore excursion. We pass through a small canal and head ashore to Con Phuoc Island where we visit local craftspeople weaving bamboo baskets the traditional way. After a demonstration, we try our hand at making our own. We then take a local tuk tuk for a drive through this peaceful village, stopping at a 100 year old church and meeting more of the friendly local community. Ship sails to Sa Dec for an overnight.

DAY 7**BEN TRE - MY THO**

Ship sails to Ben Tre for a shore excursion. After lunch, we journey 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 local rowboat. We will journey slowly through the bamboo covered canals before arriving at a village specialising in making local products. Ship sails and docks in My Tho pier. In the evening you will be entertained by a Vietnamese dance troupe on deck.

[MORE ABOUT BEN TRE](#)

DAY 8**MY THO - SAIGON**

Morning disembarkation and travel by coach from My Tho 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 local Hotel in Siem Reap and transfer to the Jaya House Hotel for lunch before check in at the hotel. In the afternoon we visit the most famous temple of Cambodia, Angkor Wat. It is visually, architecturally and artistically breathtaking with a 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 sunset from Bakheng Hill. Overnight at hotel.

Meals: Lunch at hotel

DAY 2

TEMPLES OF ANGKOR

Following breakfast in your hotel, set out for a day of exploration amongst the various temples and ruins of the Angkor Empire. The morning we will cover the large complex surrounding the imposing Bayon Temple. After lunch at a local restaurant, we discover more secluded temples including the awe inspiring and overgrown Ta Prohm, made famous by the Tomb Raider movie.

In the evening we experience a true highlight of Cambodia and meet talented young performers in a breathtaking and original Cambodian show at Phare Ponleu Selpak's Circus. Not just for entertainment, Phare is also a social enterprise supporting the youth of Cambodia gain skills and employment. Overnight at hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3

ANGKOR - DEPARTURE

Check out the hotel and transfer to the meeting point at 09:00am for registration and transfer to your Pandaw ship.

Meals: Breakfast at your hotel



DISCOVER

Exploring Angkor (Jaya House Riverpark) Pre Tour

Explore the magnificent temples of Angkor including the world famous Angkor Wat, high on any bucket list destination. With our specially selected hotels and local guide at your service throughout, this 2-night add-on to your Pandaw expedition it is the perfect choice for your trip in Cambodia.

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](#)

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 and transfer to the FCC Angkor by Avani for lunch before check in at the hotel. In the afternoon we visit the most famous temple of Cambodia, Angkor Wat. It is visually, architecturally and artistically breathtaking with a 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 sunset from Bakheng Hill.

Overnight at hotel

Meals: Lunch at hotel

DAY 2

TEMPLES OF ANGKOR

Following breakfast in your hotel, set out for a day of exploration amongst the various temples and ruins of the Angkor Empire. The morning we will cover the large complex surrounding the imposing Bayon Temple. After lunch at a local restaurant, we discover more secluded temples including the awe inspiring and overgrown Ta Prohm, made famous by the Tomb Raider movie.

In the evening we experience a true highlight of Cambodia and meet talented young performers in a breathtaking and original Cambodian show at Phare Ponleu Selpak's Circus. Not just for entertainment, Phare is also a social enterprise supporting the youth of Cambodia gain skills and employment.

Overnight at hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3

ANGKOR - DEPARTURE

Check out the hotel and meet in the lobby at 09:00am for registration and transfer to your Pandaw ship.

Meals: Breakfast at your hotel



DISCOVER

Exploring Angkor (FCC Angkor) Pre Tour

Explore the magnificent temples of Angkor including the world famous Angkor Wat, high on any bucket list destination. With our specially selected hotels and local guide at your service throughout, this 2-night add-on to your Pandaw expedition it is the perfect choice for your trip in Cambodia.

Rates include:

One way transfer (airport to hotel and hotel to ship), two nights accommodation at the FCC Angkor by Avani, meals and excursion as per itinerary.

Note

- Please advise 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.

FCC ANGKOR

Pokambor Ave

next to Royal residence

Siem Reap

Cambodia

Tel: +855 63 760 280

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

SIEM REAP TO CHHLONG

Our driver will pick you up from your hotel in Siem Reap or the airport before starting our journey toward the Mekong. We take lunch at a local restaurant on the way before arriving at your hotel, the renovated French colonial mansion Le Relais De Chhlong Boutique Hotel. Check in and relax for the evening with dinner overlooking the Mekong.

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

DAY 2

KRATIE & DOLPHIN GROUNDS

Journey by boat along the Mekong toward Kratie before continuing to visit the dolphin grounds at Kampi. Have a chance to spot the Irrawaddy dolphin on a small boat operated by the local villagers before returning to Kratie and enjoying lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon we visit Koh Trong Island, a community based ecotourism site. Plant a tree to support the local community and explore this charming island before returning to Chhlong and your hotel for dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 3

EMBARK SHIP

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and journey to Kampong Cham to join your Pandaw ship. Enjoy lunch onboard and await your fellow passengers and the start of your Pandaw adventure.



DISCOVER

Kratie and the Dolphin Grounds 2 Night Pre Tour

Explore the northern reaches of the Cambodian Mekong with a visit to Kratie, one of the few remaining places to spot the endangered Irrawaddy Dolphin. From your French Colonial base in Chhlong, journey upriver to discover this charming area, it's people and get a chance to spot the illusive river dolphins.

Please note: this tour will only be offered on departures from December onwards as high waters will mean our ship will reach Kratie during our sailing itinerary in these months.

Rates include:

2 nights accommodation at Le Relais De Chhlong or similar, 2 breakfast, 3 lunch, 2 dinner, English speaking guide on tour, s transportation by AC vehicle, local boat fees, entrance fees.

Rates exclude:

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

Note

- Please advise your arrival flight details in order to arrange the transfer accordingly
- Check out time from hotel at 1200hrs
- French speaking guides are available on request
- German speaking guides are available on request

* 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.

Supplements

- French speaking guides are available from USD60
- German speaking guides are available from USD170

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

ARRIVAL IN SAIGON

Disembark your ship and transfer to your hotel in in Saigon. Free time to explore the city, we suggest heading to Nguyen Hue walking street of the evening to see the various artists, performers and local residents relaxing in true Vietnamese style.

Overnight Saigon

Meals: None

DAY 2

SAIGON CITY TOUR - CUCHI TUNNELS

In the morning, drive to the extraordinary Cu Chi tunnels, about 65 Km (1.5 hours drive) from Saigon. The complicated system of underground network was built by the Viet Cong guerillas. We return to the city for lunch at a local restaurant before taking in the sights of Saigon. Visit the Reunification Hall, Notre Dame Cathedral, General Post Office, Former US Embassy, City Hall and War Museum of Remnants. End the day with some shopping at Ben Thanh market, one of the earliest surviving structures in Saigon and symbol of the city turned tourist shopping hotspot.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3

DEPARTURE

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your onward journey.

Meals: Breakfast



5 STAR

Post Tour Saigon & Surroundings (Hotel Des Arts)

Discover the vibrant and dynamic Ho Chi Minh City, the largest and most populous city in Vietnam. On this two-night pre or post-cruise tour, you will experience the city's rich history, culture, and cuisine staying in our specially selected hotel partners. Visit the iconic landmarks such as the Notre-Dame Cathedral, the War Remnants Museum, and the Cu Chi Tunnels as well as soaking up the hectic atmosphere of central Saigon.

Rates include:

Transfer from ship to hotel, two nights accommodation with daily breakfast,

one lunch at local restaurant and excursion as per itinerary, transfer from hotel to Saigon Airport.

Note

- Please advise departure flight details in order to arrange your 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.

HOTEL DES ARTS SAIGON

76 78 Nguyen Thi Minh Khai St

District 3

70000

Ho Chi Minh City

Tel: +84 28 3989 8888

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

ARRIVAL IN SAIGON

Disembark your ship and transfer to your hotel in in Saigon. Free time to explore the city, we suggest heading to Nguyen Hue walking street of the evening to see the various artists, performers and local residents relaxing in true Vietnamese style.

Overnight Saigon

Meals: None

DAY 2

SAIGON CITY TOUR - CUCHI TUNNELS

In the morning, drive to the extraordinary Cu Chi tunnels, about 65 Km (1.5 hours drive) from Saigon. The complicated system of underground network was built by the Viet Cong guerillas. We return to the city for lunch at a local restaurant before taking in the sights of Saigon. Visit the Reunification Hall, Notre Dame Cathedral, General Post Office, Former US Embassy, City Hall and War Museum of Remnants. End the day with some shopping at Ben Thanh market, one of the earliest surviving structures in Saigon and symbol of the city turned tourist shopping hotspot.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3

DEPARTURE

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your onward journey.

Meals: Breakfast



5 STAR

Post Tour Saigon & Surroundings (The Myst Dong Khoi)

Discover the vibrant and dynamic Ho Chi Minh City, the largest and most populous city in Vietnam. On this two-night pre or post-cruise tour, you will experience the city's rich history, culture, and cuisine staying in our specially selected hotel partners. Visit the iconic landmarks such as the Notre-Dame Cathedral, the War Remnants Museum, and the Cu Chi Tunnels as well as soaking up the hectic atmosphere of central Saigon.

Rates include:

Transfer from ship to hotel, two nights accommodation with daily breakfast, one lunch at local restaurant and excursion as per itinerary, transfer from hotel to Saigon Airport.

Note

- Please advise departure flight details in order to arrange your 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.

THE MYST DONG KHOI
6-8 Ho Huan Nghiep St.
Ben Nghe Ward
District 1
Ho Chi Minh City

Tel: +84 28 3520 3040

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

DISEMBARKATION - SAIGON CITY TOUR - CU CHI TUNNELS

Arrive Hotel des Arts Saigon after disembarkation. Upon arrival at Hotel des Arts 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 Noon 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 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

HOI AN - DEPARTURE

Morning at leisure. Transfer to Danang airport.

Meals: Breakfast at hotel.



DISCOVER

5 Night Vietnam's Heritage Road: Saigon, Hue & Hoi An 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, hotels as advertised, transportation by AC vehicle, daily breakfast, and entrance fees.

Rates exclude:

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

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**](#)