



Pandaw Cruises

EXPEDITION No 2

SAIGON AND PHNOM PENH

4 NIGHTS

Note: **Click here** to see our new 4 night Saigon - Phnom Penh itinerary and departure dates.

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. Your journey will end in Cambodia's capital Phnom Penh.

In 2003, with the RV Mekong Pandaw, we were the first ship to attempt this extraordinary journey, surmounting complex bureaucratic and navigational obstacles. We now have four ships plying this amazing waterway.

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, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes. Transfers from meeting point in Saigon to ship or v.v.

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. No transfers in Phnom Penh, ship docks in city center at Sisowath Quay.

UPSTREAM ITINERARY

DAY 1

SAIGON - MY THO - BEN TRE

Transfer from Saigon to the river port for embarkation. 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. In the evening you will be entertained by a Vietnamese dance troupe on deck.

[MORE ABOUT SAIGON](#)

DAY 2

GAO GIONG

Sailing through the delta offers a real insight into life along this vast waterway. After lunch, 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 Thap Muoi or 'Plain of Reeds'. Rowboats traverse the canals to take us to view the principal nesting areas where photo opportunities abound.

DAY 3

CHAU DOC - VIETNAM/CAMBODIA BORDER

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 before 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. Upon return to ship, we navigate a web of canals before dropping anchor on the Vietnam/Cambodia border to undergo Immigration formalities.

DAY 4

PHNOM PENH

After breakfast, disembark your Pandaw Expedition in Cambodia's capital Phnom Penh.

[MORE ABOUT PHNOM PENH](#)

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

Our guide will be waiting for you at the airport to transfer you to your hotel. Free time in the evening, we suggest heading to Nguyen Hue walking street 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, check out and transfer to the ship at My Tho.

Meals: Breakfast



5 STAR

Pre 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 Saigon Airport to hotel, two nights accommodation with daily

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

Note

- Please advise arrival 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.

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.

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](#)

PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

ARRIVAL IN SAIGON

Our guide will be waiting for you at the airport to transfer you to your hotel. Free time in the evening, we suggest heading to Nguyen Hue walking street 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, check out and transfer to the ship at My Tho.

Meals: Breakfast



5 STAR

Pre 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 Saigon Airport to hotel, two nights accommodation with daily

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

Note

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

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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](#)

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 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 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

5 Night Vietnam's Heritage Road: Hue, Hoi An & Saigon 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, 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 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.

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.

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

PHNOM PENH CITY TOUR

At the end of your cruise, check out and leave your luggage on board. Join our Phnom Penh City tour. Your private cyclo take you to the Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda and National Museum. Return to the ship for lunch.

In the afternoon we will be visiting the Killing Fields and the Khmer Rouge's grim Tuol Sleng aka S21 detention centre.

After the tour your private driver will pick you up from the ship and transfer to your hotel for one night.

Meals: Breakfast and Lunch on the ship.

DAY 2

DEPART PHNOM PENH

After breakfast transfer to the airport.

Meals: Breakfast at hotel.



Post Phnom Penh 1 night - Raffles Le Royal Hotel

Phnom Penh, Cambodia's busy capital, sits at the junction of the Mekong and Tonlé Sap rivers. It was a hub for both the Khmer Empire and French colonialists. Stroll along the riverfront boulevard, lined with parks, restaurants and bars, visit the ornate Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda and the National Museum which display artifacts from around the country. At the city's heart is the enormous art deco Central Market.

This is a group tour with Pandaw guests.

Rates include:

One night stay at Raffles Le Royal Hotel (Landmark Garden View) including breakfast, service and taxes, transfer to hotel and to airport, full day city tour with lunch on Day 1.

Rates exclude:

Meals not mentioned in the itinerary which are at your own arrangement in the hotel or in one of many restaurants in the city.

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 would not be available.

RAFFLES HOTEL LE ROYAL

Raffles Hotel Le Royal

92 Rukhak Vithei Daun Penh
Sangkat Wat Phnom
Phnom Penh
Cambodia

Tel: +855 23 981 888

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

PHNOM PENH CITY TOUR

At the end of your cruise, check out and leave your luggage on board. Join our Phnom Penh City tour. Your private cyclo take you to the Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda and National Museum. Return to the ship for lunch.

In the afternoon we will be visiting the Killing Fields and the Khmer Rouge's grim Tuol Sleng aka S21 detention centre.

After the tour your private driver will pick you up from the ship and transfer to your hotel for one night.

Meals: Breakfast and Lunch on the ship.

DAY 2

DEPART PHNOM PENH

After breakfast transfer to the airport.

Meals: Breakfast at hotel.



DISCOVER

Post Phnom Penh 1 night - Pavillion Hotel

Phnom Penh, Cambodia's busy capital, sits at the junction of the Mekong and Tonlé Sap rivers. It was a hub for both the Khmer Empire and French colonialists. Stroll along the riverfront boulevard, lined with parks, restaurants and bars, visit the ornate Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda and the National Museum which display artifacts from around the country. At the city's heart is the enormous art deco Central Market.

This is a group tour with Pandaw guests.

Rates include:

One night stay at the Pavillion Hotel including breakfast, service and taxes, transfer to hotel and to airport, full day city tour with lunch on Day 1.

Rates exclude:

Meals not mentioned in the itinerary which are at your own arrangement in the hotel or in one of many restaurants in the city.

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 would not be available.

PAVILION HOTEL PHNOM PENH

227 Street 19; Phnom Penh

Cambodia

Tel: +855 23 22 22 80

[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](#)