



Pandaw River Expeditions

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 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 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.

DOWNSTREAM ITINERARY

DAY 1

PHNOM PENH

Embark the ship no later than 12.00 noon, as we need your passport to process the immigration formalities for the border crossing. Rest of day at leisure.

Overnight in Phnom Penh city port with its lively bars, restaurants and night life.

[MORE ABOUT PHNOM PENH](#)

DAY 2

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 3**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 4**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 local transport through the lush countryside.

DAY 5

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 PHNOM PENH

Arrival at Phnom Penh airport followed by transfer to your hotel. Rest of the day at leisure. Overnight at your hotel.

Meals: not included.

DAY 2

PHNOM PENH CITY TOUR

After breakfast transfer to the ship at 08.00am. Leave your luggage and passport (for Vietnam immigration preparation) on board and join your new friends on the Phnom Penh City tour. Your private cyclo will 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. Overnight on board.

Meals: Breakfast at hotel, Lunch & Dinner on the ship.



5 STAR

Pre 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 including breakfast, service and taxes; transfer from airport and transfer to ship, full day city tour with lunch on DAY 2.

Rates exclude:

Lunch and dinner on Day 1 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.

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](#)

PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

ARRIVAL PHNOM PENH

Arrival at Phnom Penh airport followed by transfer to your hotel. Rest of the day at leisure. Overnight at your hotel.

Meals: not included.

DAY 2

PHNOM PENH CITY TOUR

After breakfast transfer to the ship at 08.00am. Leave your luggage and passport (for Vietnam immigration preparation) on board and join your new friends on the Phnom Penh City tour. Your private cyclo will 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. Overnight on board.

Meals: Breakfast at hotel, Lunch & Dinner on the ship.



4 STAR

Pre Phnom Penh 1 night - Amanjaya Pancam 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 Amanjaya Pancam, Junior Suite, including breakfast, service and taxes; transfer from airport and transfer to ship, full day city tour with lunch on DAY 2.

Rates exclude:

Lunch and dinner on Day 1 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

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AMANJAYA PANCAM HOTEL

Amanjaya Pancam Hotel

1

Street 154

Sisowath Quay

Riverfront

Phnom Penh.

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

PHNOM PENH - TATAI

Your driver will pick you up at your hotel or airport in Phnom Penh and transfer without guide to Tatai, located about 5.5 hours from Phnom Penh. Upon arrival, you will be taken by local boat to the floating lodge. The transfer over water takes about 30 minutes. You will find Paradise!

Note: There are particular times for the boat transfer at 2PM and at 5PM. In case you arrive earlier or later at the pier than 2PM, a private transfer to the floating resort is possible for a USD 25 surcharge (payable to the Resort).

Meals: Dinner at the lodge.

DAY 2

TATAI

Today is free at leisure and you may opt to partake in one of the optional activities (surcharge applies). Kayaking, boating or visiting the wonderful Ta Tai falls are all part of the options available.

Meals: Full Board at the lodge.

DAY 3

TATAI - PHNOM PENH

Transfer back to Phnom Penh to board your Pandaw. Extra nights available on request.

Meals: Breakfast at the Lodge.



DISCOVER

4 Rivers Floating Resort Tatai 2 nights Pre Tour

Koh Kong is one of Cambodia's most forested provinces which offers some exceptional experiences. A maze of rivers flow into the Gulf of Thailand and create an incredibly unique natural environment of waterfalls, dense jungle and little islands with small farming communities. On the confluence of 4 rivers floats the 4 Rivers Lodge, surrounded by the Cardamom Mountains, Southeast Asia's largest Rainforest located on mainland. The resort's location is spectacular, its atmosphere serene and offers many adventurous activities. Swim in the rivers, visit the waterfalls or hike across the islands. Every experience in this dense jungle is exceptional and easy to enjoy.

This is a private tour.

Rates include:

Two nights at 4Rivers Eco Lodge with full board as indicated, private vehicle with air conditioning, transfers without guide as per itinerary, boat fees.

Rates exclude:

International flights to/from Cambodia, porter fees for all transfers (airports & jetties), personal travel insurance, visa for Cambodia, meals not mentioned in the itinerary, any expense of a personal nature including but not limited to drinks, laundry, camera fees, phone calls, gratuities, souvenirs, etc. Others not mentioned in the itinerary.

Extend Your Stay

Nightly price including full board.

- USD 218.- per person sharing a double tent
- USD 308.- per person in single

For nightly extensions please email information@pandaw.com.

Note

- 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

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4RIVERS ECO LODGE, TATAI

4Rivers Eco Lodge

Tatai (Koh Kong)

Cambodia.

Tel: +855 (0) 97 64 34 032

[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

ARRIVAL IN SAIGON

Upon arrival at your hotel, meet your local guide and visit to Reunification Hall, Notre Dame Cathedral, General Post Office, Former US Embassy, City Hall, War Museum of Remnants and Shopping at Ben Thanh market.

Meals: Breakfast on ship.

DAY 2

SAIGON - HUE

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.

After lunch in a local restaurant, transfer to airport and take an afternoon flight Saigon to Hue. Transfer to hotel on arrival and rest of day at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast at hotel. Lunch at local restaurant.

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

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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](#)