



# Pandaw River Expeditions

EXPEDITION No 4

## THE MEKONG UNEXPLORED

10 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.

In addition to this off-the-beaten track itinerary we will visit the village of Kratie up the Mekong where we still can find the endangered river dolphins.

In 2003, with the RV Mekong Pandaw, we were the first ship to attempt this extraordinary journey, surmounting complex bureaucratic and navigational obstacles.

**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

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## DAY 1

### SIEM REAP

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**PLEASE NOTE:** We may experience low water levels between January and April. If we are unable to reach Kratie to see the river dolphins a revised itinerary will be offered with an exciting variety of excursions.

Passengers will transfer by coach to Kampong Cham. A packed lunch will be provided on the coach and we will stop at Kampong Thom along the way. Embark your ship and cast off to Kratie.

**Please note:** Your guide will collect your passports at the meeting point so we can arrange the immigration formalities.

[MORE ABOUT SIEM REAP](#)

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## DAY 2

### CHHLONG

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Morning excursion to Chhlong with its beautiful French colonial style buildings. Enjoy the afternoon on board.

[MORE ABOUT CHHLONG](#)

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**DAY 3****KRATIE**

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We will travel by coach and transfer by boat to the WWF protected area where we hope to see the rare river dolphins. The river here is rocky and not navigable for larger vessels. In the Afternoon we will visit the island of Koh Trong with our small Pandaw Explorer boat.

[MORE ABOUT KRATIE](#)

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**DAY 4****ANGKOR BAN**

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Morning excursion to Angkor Ban village to see traditional Khmer houses, villagers at work and a pagoda. In the afternoon you will visit the pagoda at Preak Bong Kong.

[MORE ABOUT ANGKOR BAN](#)

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**DAY 5****KAMPONG TROLACH**

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Cast off to Preak Kdam, en route you will experience an ox cart ride to the village of Kampong Trolach. In the afternoon we will visit the Silversmith village of Kampong Trolach.

[MORE ABOUT KAMPONG TROLACH](#)

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**DAY 6****PHNOM PENH**

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Passengers will visit Phnom Penh and will be provided with their own private cyclo\*. The Cyclo Centre Phnom Penh which provides the cyclos is a charity that provides basic welfare and medical services to cyclo drivers ([www.cyclo.org.uk](http://www.cyclo.org.uk)). In the afternoon, optional excursion (by coach) to the Killing Fields and the Khmer Rouge's grim Tuol Sleng or S21 detention centre. This tour is included in the cost of your cruise but must be requested at the time of booking in the comments box.

[MORE ABOUT PHNOM PENH](#)

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**DAY 7****CRUISING**

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Cast off for the Cambodian border for the usual formalities. Enjoy a day on the ship.

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**DAY 8****CHAU DOC**

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Visit a Cham tribal village, a cat fish farm, and enjoy a trishaw ride round Chau Doc. We will sail to Sa Dec in the afternoon.

[MORE ABOUT CHAU DOC](#)

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**DAY 9****SA DEC**

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We will take an exciting Sampan boat excursion to Sa Dec via Vinh Long, along canals and backwaters and see the local market and the ancient house of Mr, Huyn Thuy Le, the 'lover' of Marguerite Duras, a famous French novelist.

[MORE ABOUT SA DEC](#)

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**DAY 10****VINH LONG**

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We will visit a local market in Vinh Long by local boat and then continue to floating villages to see catfish farms. Visit a candy and rice paper factory where we will have tea and refreshments at a local house. Before we return to our ship we will experience narrow canals on a rowing boat to see local life and fishermen.

[MORE ABOUT VINH LONG](#)

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**DAY 11****SAIGON**

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Disembark after breakfast and transfer to Saigon City. Arrive late morning.

[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

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## 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.

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## 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.

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**DAY 3**

## **ANGKOR - DEPARTURE**

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

Meals: Breakfast at your hotel.

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**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**

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## **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.

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## **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.

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**DAY 3**

## **ANGKOR - DEPARTURE**

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

Meals: Breakfast at your hotel.

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**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

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**DAY 1**

### ARRIVAL IN SAIGON

Arrive in Saigon. Transfer to hotel . Free time in Saigon. Overnight Saigon

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## 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.

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## DAY 3

# DEPARTURE

Breakfast at hotel. Free time until departure.

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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](#)

## 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](#)



