



# Pandaw River Expeditions

EXPEDITION No 39

## DEEPER AND FURTHER ON THE MEKONG RIVER

10 NIGHTS

Go deeper into the Mekong Delta and further up the main Mekong River than on other river cruises on offer. This pioneering route is very much aimed at Pandaw club members who seek more immersive experiences in the countries Pandaw ships ply and wish to spend more days in the comfort and lively atmosphere of our beautifully crafted ships. Our first departure will be on a member's first basis.

No ship could be more appropriate for this expedition than the much-loved Mekong Pandaw that was the first ship to pioneer the river in 2002 and historically open the river border between Vietnam and Cambodia. With 24 staterooms she has been refitted with a sumptuous spa, library and gym this ship, built in Burma from golden teak. This is the most spacious of all Pandaw's nineteen ships with broad promenades running around each deck and a vast sun deck of over 600 square meters on top. With a draft of only one meter the Mekong Pandaw can go further upstream than other ships and with a lower air draft pass under the many new bridges that likewise prevent other ships on the Mekong from going very far.

**YOUR SHIP - [RV MEKONG 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 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.

# UPSTREAM ITINERARY

---

## DAY 1

### SAIGON - MY THO - BEN TRE

---

Transfer from Saigon hotels to embark ship at My Tho Port. Set sail for lunch on board and an afternoon sampan trip to explore the canals and back waters of Ben Tre.

---

## DAY 2

### CAI BE TO SA DEC

---

Early sailing and morning sampan visit to the Cai Be floating market with a walk ashore to see workshops and crafts production. Then on to Sa Dec which has an interesting market and the traditional Vietnamese house of Mr Huynh Thuy Le, the 'lover' of Marguerite Duras, a famous French novelist whose book was immortalised in the film L'Indochine. There is a fine catholic church here too.

---

**DAY 3****GAO GIONG**

---

After a short sail upstream, travel a short distance by coach to the 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 visit the principal nesting areas. In the afternoon visit Con Phuoc Island and go ashore to explore by tuk-tuk to see basket production and visit a 100-year old Catholic Church and local carpentry shops.

---

**DAY 4****TAN CHAU**

---

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 5****CHAU DOC - VIETNAM/CAMBODIA BORDER - TONLE RIVER**

---

Visit a Moslem Cham tribal village and a catfish farm in Chau Doc with a guide or do your own thing and take one of our mountain bikes and explore the local market or visit the splendid Catholic Church. Return to the ship by boat for lunch and cast off for the Cambodian border for the usual formalities.

---

**DAY 6**

## **OUDONG - KAMPONG CHHANANG**

---

After a morning cruise along the Tonle River disembark at Prek Kdam and travel by coach to a former capital, Oudong. On the way visit the Vipassana Dhura Meditation Centre for a morning of relaxation & meditation before taking a drive around the old capital. Continue up the Tonle river to Kampong Chhanang where the river is at its most beautiful and heaving with life. Then explore the wetlands around the lake's mouth rich in birdlife.

---

**DAY 7**

## **PHNOM PENH**

---

All passengers 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. You will visit the Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda and National Museum. In the afternoon, optional excursion (by coach) to the Killing Fields and the Khmer Rouge's grim Tuol Sleng or S21 detention centre.

[MORE ABOUT PHNOM PENH](#)

---

**DAY 8****ANGKOR BAN - KAMPONG CHAM**

---

Morning walk at Angkor Ban a typical Khmer village with a library donated by Pandaw passengers. Continue upstream to Kampong Cham and travel by bus to Chiro Village with an extensive education centre offering vocational training. Other activities here include plastic recycling, bee keeping, farming and handicraft making projects. On to the Wat Nokor Bachey dating back to the Jayarvaman VII period. Built completely from a black sandstone unlike other temples of this period.

---

**DAY 9****CHHALONG - KOH TRONG ISLAND**

---

Morning walk to explore this former French provincial centre with its many splendid belle epoch mansions and lively market. Overnight on the delightful Koh Trong island where passengers can plant their own trees. Sandbank dinner.

---

**DAY 10****KRATIE AND THE DOLPHINS (SUBJECT TO SEASONAL WATER LEVELS)**

---

From Kratie travel further upstream by a rustic bus to view the dolphin grounds from local boats in a national park protected area. Return downstream and in late afternoon go ashore to see Wat Hanchey an important centre of worship on top of a hill above the Mekong with good river panoramas. Of great interest are the Chenla Period temples dating from the 8th century, some destroyed by American bombing during the Vietnam War. Overnight Wat Hanchey.

---

**DAY 11****KAMPONG CHAM - SIEM REAP**

---

Early morning sail to Kampong Cham and coach transfer to hotels in Siem Reap with a refreshment stop at Kampong Thom along the way. Arrive at Siem Reap early afternoon.

# 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

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 Saigon)

**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 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 SAIGON HOTEL

39 Le Duan

Ben Nghe

Ho Chi Minh City

Vietnam

Tel: +84 8 3520 9999

[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

## **Vietnam's Heritage Road, Hue - Hoi An - Saigon 5 nights 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, 2 nights at Victoria Hoi An

(Deluxe Garden Room), 2 nights at Pilgrimage Village Hue (Deluxe Room), 1 night at InterContinental Asiana (Deluxe 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 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

## ARRIVAL SIEM REAP - ANGKOR WAT

Our guide is ready at FCC Angkor hotel lobby for welcome you upon arrival from the ship then transfer to Jaya House Hotel for lunch before check in 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. Take in the romantic view at sun set from Bakheng Hill. Overnight at hotel.

Meals: Dinner at your 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 Pimean Akas. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit Thommanon, Chau Say Teveda, Ta Keo, Ta Promh, Banteay Kdei and Sras Srang. In the evening experience a highlight and meet talented young performers in a breathtaking, entertaining and original Cambodian show at Phare Ponleu Selpak's Circus. Pandaw guests receive a special VIP treatment. Overnight at hotel.

Meals: Breakfast at your hotel, Lunch at local restaurant.

---



## DAY 3

# PREAH KHAN - DEPARTURE

After breakfast travel by airconditioned car to visit Preah Khan, Neak Pean, Ta Som, East Meborn. Transfer to the airport.

Meals: Breakfast at your hotel.

---



## DISCOVER

# Exploring Angkor (Jaya House Riverpark) Post Tour

**Jaya House Riverpark This is a private tour.**

## Rates include:

One way transfer (ship to hotel and hotel to airport), 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 SIEM REAP - ANGKOR WAT**

Our guide is ready at the FCC Angkor by Avani lobby for welcome you upon arrival from the ship then arrange lunch before check in hotel. Our guide will be at the lobby check in assistant and make appointment for afternoon excursion. 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. Take in the romantic view at sun set from Bakheng Hill. Overnight at hotel.

Meals: Dinner at your 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 Pimean Akas. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit Thommanon, Chau Say Teveda, Ta Keo, Ta Promh, Banteay Kdei and Sras Srang. In the evening experience a highlight and meet talented young performers in a breathtaking, entertaining and original Cambodian show at Phare Ponleu Selpak's Circus. Pandaw guests receive a special VIP treatment. Overnight at hotel.

Meals: Breakfast at your hotel, Lunch at local restaurant.

---

## DAY 3

# PREAH KHAN - DEPARTURE

After breakfast travel by airconditioned car to visit Preah Khan, Neak Pean, Ta Som, East Meborn. Transfer to the airport.

Meals: Breakfast at your hotel.

---



## DISCOVER

# Exploring Angkor (FCC Angkor) Post Tour

**FCC Angkor Resort. This is a private tour.**

## **Rates include:**

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

FCC ANGKOR

Pokambor Ave

next to Royal residence

Siem Reap

Cambodia

Tel: +855 63 760 280

[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](#)