



## Mekong River - Fascinating Vietnam and Cambodia

Immerse yourself in fascinating cultures and ancient traditions as you embark on an inspiring river journey through Vietnam and Cambodia.



8 days/7 nights

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1: Ho Chi Minh City (Embarkation)

This morning, transfer to the port on the Saigon River and board your river cruise vessel to start your cruise up the Mekong River through Vietnam and Cambodia. Get acquainted with the ship and relax before your welcome reception this evening.

(Lunch, Dinner)

*Note: You must meet your Cruise Director in the lobby of the hotel by 9:30 am as your passports must be processed prior to departure from the port. Departure time from the hotel to the ship is 11:30 am.*

#### Day 2: Cai Be-Sa Dec

This morning, board a sampan for a scenic cruise through Cai Be Harbor, passing the city's beautiful French Gothic cathedral. First stop is a local establishment to see how rice paper, rice wine, and traditional candies are made. Then, take a walk through town to visit the beautiful cathedral. After lunch on the ship, reboard sampans and enjoy scenes of daily life along the river near Sa Dec. Stop at a brick factory to see workers forming the clay bricks that fill the local landscape. Here, you will also learn about the importance of the rice husk in fueling the brick kilns. Next, visit the ancient House of Mr. Huynh Thuy Le, the lover of French novelist Marguerite Duras and inspiration for the film *L'Amant* (The Lover), directed by Jean-Jacques Annaud. Afterward, walk through the local market and absorb the atmosphere as locals are busy buying and selling fish, meat, and produce.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

#### Day 3: Chau Doc-Cambodian Border Crossing

Board a sampan for sightseeing around Chau Doc. Along the way you will see scenes of local life, including traditional Vietnamese floating markets and villages. Learn about some of the different species of fish living in the Mekong and see how traditional fishing nets are thrown at a local fish farm. Then, continue down the backwaters of the Mekong to the religious sites at the base of Sam Mountain. You will also stop to see a local market where shop owners sell a variety of dried goods. Return to the ship for lunch and head for the Cambodian border.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

#### Day 4: Phnom Penh

The capital city of Phnom Penh retains its French charm to this day. This morning, your sightseeing tour by private cyclo includes visits to the Royal Palace with the spectacular Silver Pagoda and the National Museum, featuring an outstanding display of Khmer artifacts. The remainder of the day is at your leisure to enjoy the city. Just before dinner,



children from a local orphanage will put on a show featuring local song and dance.  
(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

**Day 5: Phnom Penh–Prek Bang Kong**

Sightseeing this morning provides a glimpse of the atrocities inflicted on the Cambodian people by the Khmer Rouge regime. Visit the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, a former high school that housed over 17,000 prisoners. Of this number, it is believed that fewer than 15 survived the torture and avoided being sent to the Killing Fields. You will also visit one of the Killing Fields, where over 200,000 people were killed by the Khmer Rouge. After lunch, visit the village of Prek Bang Kong, where silk weaving is a well-preserved tradition. Spend time at one house for a silk weaving demonstration and to learn more about how silk is produced.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

**Day 6: Wat Hanchey–Angkor Ban**

This morning, visit Wat Hanchey, a temple dating back to the 8th century and the Chenla Empire. Located on a hilltop, enjoy stunning views of the surrounding area and partake in a traditional water blessing given by local monks. After lunch, enjoy a walking tour through the rural village of Angkor Ban. Here you will see traditional Khmer houses and visit a local school. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Note: The climb to Wat Hanchey features a steep incline. If you feel you are unable to make the climb, you will be driven to the top by car.

**Day 7: Konpong Louang–Kampong Tralach**

Today, start your sightseeing at the silversmith village of Konpong Louang. Here you will see talented craftsmen use age-old techniques to turn pure silver into works of art. Continue on to Kampong Tralach for an ox cart ride past rice paddy fields and the beautiful Cambodian countryside. Along the way, stop to meet a local farmer and learn about his daily life. Return to the ship for lunch. This afternoon, cruise up the Tonle River to Tonle Sap (Great Lake). After the rainy season, this massive body of water can cover around 10,000 square miles and is the perfect breeding ground for fish, which play a vital role in providing food for people living on the lake.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Note: During low water conditions, generally mid-December to August, we will not be able to cruise up the Tonle River to Tonle Sap. Low water conditions vary from year to year, depending on rainfall so this will be evaluated on a cruise-by-cruise basis.

**Day 8: Siem Reap (Disembarkation)**

Your vacation ends this morning with a transfer to our hotel.

(Breakfast)

*Note: Arrival time at our hotel is approximately 9:30 am. Do not book your departing flight prior to 12:00 pm (noon). During low water conditions, generally mid-December to August, we will not be able to cruise across Tonle Sap to Siem Reap. In these cases, we will fly from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap and will arrive at approximately 12:00 pm. During this time period do not book your departing flight prior to 4 pm. Times are subject to change without notice.*

**Details**

**Group Size:** Max. 36

**2018 Dates:**

November: 01, 08, 15, 22, 29

December: 06, 13, 20, 27

**2019 Dates:**

January: 03, 10, 17, 24, 31

February: 07, 14, 21, 28

March: 07, 14, 21, 28

April: 04, 11

As availability on travel programs changes frequently, please contact us for the most up to date availability on the trip you are interested in.

**2018 Prices:** Starting price



Cat. B, Deluxe outside cabin, Mekong Deck, from CA\$4,039 – twin

Cat. A, Deluxe outside cabin, Tonle Deck, from CA\$4,564 – twin

**2019 Prices:**

Starting price

Cat. B, Deluxe outside cabin, Mekong Deck, from CA\$5,509 – twin

Cat. A, Deluxe outside cabin, Tonle Deck, from CA\$6,034 – twin Taxes/port fees: \$115 Pre-paid gratuities (optional):

\$173 Prices are shown in CA\$ per person, based on two people sharing a twin cabin. Starting prices are shown based on select dates – some dates will have higher prices. Single rates are available on request. No triple cabins on this cruise. Special offers come into effect from time to time and may not be reflected in the above pricing. We will check for any specials or discounts that may be in place for the cruise you are interested in, or check alternate dates that may provide a special offer.

**Trip Code:**

002018 - W18

**INCLUDED**

- Deluxe accommodation on-board the Siem Reap for seven nights in cabin category booked
- Meals as indicated in itinerary: breakfast daily, seven lunches, seven dinners
- Services of a cruise director
- Full touring and site visits as outlined in the itinerary

**NOT INCLUDED**

- International airfare to Ho Chi Minh City, return from Siem Reap
- Passport and visa fees, as required
- Gratuities, unless pre-paid
- Travel insurance
- Items of a personal nature

**TOUR NOTES**

Start your cruise on the Mekong River, the thread that connects the people of Southeast Asia. Visit a colorful local market, a fish farm, and a local establishment to see how rice paper and traditional candy are made. In Phnom Penh, take a tour of the city by private cyclo, with visits to the National Museum and the Royal Palace with the stunning Silver Pagoda. Walking tours through the rural villages of Prek Bang Kong and Angkor Ban and an ox cart ride through the countryside at Kampong Tralach will grant you a memorable inside look at life along the river and interactions with the local people.

All of this and more await you on this fabulous journey!

It's about you. You are the reason we've used our 85-plus years of travel expertise to design the very best river cruise experience. Inspired by you, we've taken everything special about river cruising and made it even better. Here are some of the features and amenities you'll experience on board our Avalon ships.

Intimate cruise experience with maximum capacity of 36 people

Unique cultural activities & interactions with locals

More cruising! Avalon has eliminated 7 hours of motor coach travel time (depending on water levels)

Expert Local Guide with all excursions

Headsets for all guided shore excursions

Bottled water on all excursions

Fresh fruit & tea after all ship excursions

Complimentary coffee, tea, soft drinks, and local beer/spirits throughout the day at the bar

Complimentary wine, local beer/spirits, soft drinks, coffee & tea at dinner

Bar serving premium spirits

Daily early riser coffee & tea

Full buffet breakfast

Nightly option of entree

Complimentary local beer/spirits, soft drinks and coffee & tea at lunch

English-speaking crew

Non-smoking interior

Comfort Collection Bed, featuring premium mattress covers

Large private bathrooms featuring full shower with glass door, hairdryer, and premium bath amenities

Spacious closets with shelves for ample storage

Easy under-bed luggage storage

Bathrobes & slippers



*Disclaimer: We do our utmost to ensure that information posted on our website is correct at the time of publication, however trip details are subject to change without notice by the suppliers and operators involved. We update the information as soon as possible when changes are advised to us, however, we cannot assume responsibility for such changes made by the suppliers and operators.*

## ROUTE MAP



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