



MAGICAL MEKONG CRUISE & PHU QUOC BEACH

Cruise & Beach | 15 Days | Physical Level 1

Siem Reap – Victoria Mekong Downstream 7 Night Cruise (Kampong Chham – Angkor Ban – Koh Dach – Koh Chen – Oudong – Phnom Penh – Tan Chau – Vam Nao – Tiger Island – Lon Xuyen – Dinh Yen) – **Can Tho – Phu Quoc Island**

- Visits the wooden stilt houses in the vibrant village of Angkor Ban
- Hop on a pedal-powered cyclo to the elegant Raffles Hotel LeRoyal for a signature cocktail at the famed Elephant Bar.
- Explore the majestic Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda complex in Phnom Penh.
- Enjoy a local folkloric show from the Khmer Apsara dancers onboard Victoria Mekong
- Witness the mesmerizing Long Xuyen floating market and tour the An Giang Museum.
- Relax and unwind on the stunning beaches of Phu Quoc.

TOUR MAP



INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- 4-Star accommodation
- Meals as stated In your Itinerary
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking Local Guides
- Cambodia and Vietnam visa fees for New Zealand passport holders (please see visa section below for further information)
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides
- Safe and secure with IATA

The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, meals not included, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

JOINING YOUR TOUR

The tour is 15 days in duration including international flights in both directions as this is the most likely flight option from New Zealand. Please note, some flights may depart and arrive on Day 2.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre and post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Siem Reap and end the tour on Day 14 in Phu Quoc with a flight back to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It is our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate; in these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

DETAILED ITINERARY**Days 1-2: Arrive Siem Reap**

Meals:

Fly to Siem Reap where you will be met in the arrival hall and transferred to your hotel. Depending on your time of arrival, the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture. Early check-in is not included.

**Day 3: Siem Reap – Kampong Chham – Angkor Ban**

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, transfer to the cruise meeting point in Siem Reap then travel by coach to Kampong Chham and set off for lunch before embarking on the Victoria Mekong. Meet your crew for the next 7 nights and enjoy your first sunset on the Mekong River.

Please note, the cruise itinerary including shore excursions is subject change depending on local conditions and water levels. The ship cannot guarantee against delays or – in rare cases – cancellations of sections of your itinerary.

**Day 4: Angkor Ban – Koh Dach – Koh Chen**

Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy a morning excursion to explore the village of Angkor Ban with its wooden stilt houses and local vibe.

After having lunch on the ship, travel by three-wheeled tuk tuk to Silk Island where you will learn about the process of silk weaving, from worm to loom, with the chance to observe local families weaving the iconic Cambodian krama.



Day 5: Koh Chen – Oudong – Phnom Penh

Meals: B, L, D

Take a walking tour of the village of Koh Chen where the highlight is meeting a local copper and silversmith. Afterward travel by coach to Oudong, the ancient capital of Cambodia.

After lunch on board arrive in Phnom Penh and hop on a pedal powered cyclo to the elegant Raffles Hotel Le Royal for a signature cocktail at the famed Elephant Bar.

**Day 6: Phnom Penh**

Meals: B, L, D

Explore the majestic Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda complex and walk to the nearby National Museum, a beautiful sandstone building that showcases the world's largest collection of Khmer art.

Pay your respects at Choeng Ek, one of the mass grave sites of the Killing Fields before returning to the ship to enjoy a lively Apsara dance performance before dinner.

**Day 7: Cruise into Vietnam**

Meals: B, L, D

As the ship begins cruising towards the Cambodia-Vietnam border, select from the many onboard activities including a ship's tour, mini golf tournament, or simply enjoy the scenery.

Tender sampans take you ashore to visit a local temple, see fish farms and stilt houses, and get your first glimpse of the Vietnamese countryside. Return on board for a traditional Vietnamese lion dance before dinner.

**Day 8: Phu Tan and Tiger Island**

Meals: B, L, D

Tender ashore at Phu Tan to visit a craft village famed for handmaking Ca Rang clay stoves.

After lunch on board, head ashore by sampan and explore Tiger Island by 3 wheeled xe loi learning about cottage industries such as plant pot making and incense making. Visit a site locally known as "Mr Tiger's Temple" and hear the story that won the island its name.



Day 9: Long Xuyen and Dinh Yen

Meals: B, L, D

Travel by tender to witness the mesmerizing Long Xuyen floating market and tour the An Giang Museum, with fascinating exhibits on Kinh Chinese, Khmer and Cham cultures in the region.



Enjoy lunch on board as we cruise towards the village of Dinh Yen where we'll observe colourful straw mats being woven on mechanized looms. This evening enjoy a traditional Southern Vietnamese folk music performance known as Đờn ca tài tử followed by a final farewell dinner.

Day 10-13: Can Tho – Ho Chi Minh City – Phu Quoc

Meals: B, L

Enjoy breakfast on the terrace of Claypot Restaurant with time to enjoy the view from the pool or from your private balcony before disembarkation. Drive to Cai Be where lunch is served at the elegant Le Longanier Restaurant, set amidst lush fruit trees by the river. Transfer by coach to Ho Chi Minh city approx 3 hours for your onward flight to Phu Quoc.



The next four days are yours to relax and enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

Day 14-15: Depart Phu Quoc

Meals: B

Transfer to the airport in Phu Quoc for your flight to New Zealand via Ho Chi Minh City, arriving the same or next day.



CAMOBODIA & VIETNAM TRAVEL INFORMATION

ONBOARD THE VICTORIA MEKONG:

The Victoria Mekong is the greenest ship on the Mekong River blending state-of-the-art eco-credentials with four-star comfort and superior service. With just 35 passenger cabins you are guaranteed a genuine 'small ship' experience.

All efforts are made to eliminate plastic from the ship including complimentary refillable bottles in the cabins with water stations located on each deck, waste bins lined with washable inserts (no plastic bin bags), no plastic straws, and no plastic bags or containers used for food delivery.

All rooms come with floor to ceiling windows, private balcony, individually controlled air conditioning, bathrobes and slippers, hairdryer, a mini-safe, daily/nightly turndown service, free Wi-Fi access and access to a 24-hour laundry service.

Additional benefits for all guests include:

- ✓ Welcome drink
- ✓ Free flow of soft beverages all day (mineral water, soft drinks, tea, coffee), local beers
- ✓ Free flow of house wine by the glass during lunch and dinner
- ✓ Daily signature cocktail from 18:00 to 19:00
- ✓ Complimentary refillable bottles (one per passenger) with water stations on all decks
- ✓ Onboard entertainment

General exclusions include optional excursions (such as Tra Su Bird Sanctuary in Chau Doc), any additional beverages, premium wines and spirits, fuel surcharges (if any), entrance fees during offshore excursions, ship crew gratuities, expenses of a personal nature and anything not specifically listed.

VISAS:

Entry visas are required by all visitors to Cambodia and Vietnam and Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa. Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into New Zealand.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate, Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa.

Wendy Wu Tours does not accept responsibility for lost or undelivered items.

All information with regards to visas will be updated regularly on our website as we find visas process' are changing on regular basis.

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

EATING IN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM:

Southeast Asia is home to an incredibly rich food history. The local cuisine is known for its intense flavours, spices and some of the freshest ingredients you can find. In general, meals include either rice or noodles and are packed full of flavour. Lemongrass, ginger, lime leaves, coriander, fish sauce and soy sauce are used in most local dishes. Whilst Southeast Asian food has a reputation for being hot and spicy, each region actually has its own distinct characteristics. Vietnam, for example, is perhaps best known for its fresh and aromatic dishes – relying heavily on flavours from fresh herbs such as mint, basil and dill.

Your itinerary has been carefully crafted to introduce you to a range of local dishes and we hope that you enjoy the culinary adventure ahead. You will find the meals that are included listed in your itinerary above.

Those with dietary requirements - just make sure to inform your booking agent of any specific requirements well in advance of your trip.

Please read your travel guide, which you will receive with your final documents for more information about eating in Southeast Asia. We recommend that when it comes to Asia food, you stay open minded and try to be adventurous!

PORTERAGE:

Please be aware that portage is not included on our tours in Vietnam and Cambodia. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and Southeast Asia is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. Rest assured that tipping for the cruise portion is included. Tipping for the remaining part of the tour will be at your discretion.

We recommend approximately US\$7-10 per person, per day for your guide and US\$3-5 per person, per day for your driver, depending on your satisfaction. If a restaurant hasn't included a service charge, a 10-20% tip is recommended.

APPROPRIATE DRESS:

When visiting temples or mosques, both men and women should dress in conservative, non-revealing clothing. Full-length trousers with a shirt or t-shirt for men; and pants or skirts well below the knee with a top that covers the shoulders and upper arms for women.

Women might also consider carrying a 'modesty shawl' in their daypack – this could be a sarong or light scarf – which they can wear over their shoulders and heads to feel more comfortable while sightseeing at mosques.

Religious sites and homes throughout Cambodia and Vietnam – for Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Muslims, or Buddhists to name a few – require all visitors to remove their shoes to enter. Even if you then need to walk outdoors, over hot or rough ground, you will not be allowed to wear shoes. You will often find shoe storage rooms near the entrance of a site where it is customary to leave your shoes near the entrance. Occasionally there are 'shoe minders' who will offer to keep your shoes safe for a 'tip' – this is not compulsory so each customer can choose to tip for this service or not. If you do not want to remove your shoes, you will have to remain outside.

We recommend shoes that easily slip on and off, and carry a pair of thick, old socks in your daypack, which you can wear to protect your feet from any rough or hot surfaces. The itinerary above will indicate when you need to consider this.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: private air-conditioned vehicle will be used where applicable and domestic flights will be with a low-cost airline provider.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your doctor or local Health Centre for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Safe Travel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements.

You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice including a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: May 2024