



CRUISE OF 9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS - REF. 9SR\_PP

## From Siem Reap to the Mekong Delta (port-to-port cruise)

**SIEM REAP - KAMPONG CHHNANG - KAMPONG TRALACH - KOH CHEN - PHNOM PENH - CHAU DOC - SA DEC - VINH LONG - CAI BE - MY THO - HO CHI MINH CITY**

From the heights of the Himalayas to the southern coasts of the South China Sea, winding over 2,700 miles, the Mekong is much more than just irrigation for Indochina—everywhere it flows, it fascinates men and shapes their lives. Come take an expedition on this grand and plentiful “water snake,” from Ho Chi Minh City, still largely influenced by the French colonial days, to Phnom Penh, Tonle Sap Lake and Siem Reap, following the footsteps of Henri Mouhot. Our meditative trip takes you along the Mekong River on board a ship combining charm and colonial-style comfort.



### HIGHLIGHTS

- **EXCURSIONS INCLUDED:**
  - Crossing through the splendid **Cho Gao canal**
  - Discover historical cities: **Ho Chi Minh City and Phnom Penh**
  - **Meet the locals** and learn about their daily lives in Koh Chen, My Tho...

## CRUISE PROGRAM (9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS)



### Day 1 : SIEM REAP

**Meeting at 1 p.m.** at the hotel Lotus Blanc(1) (ships: RV Indochine I and Lan Diep) and the hotel Sofitek Angkor(1) (ship: RV Indochine II). Transfer to your cruise boat. After comfortably settling into your cabins, we'll introduce our crew at a welcome cocktail and have dinner on board. We'll spend the night on board.



### Day 2 : TONLE SAP LAKE - KAMPONG CHHANG

Enjoy breakfast as we cruise across the lake. After lunch, we'll visit Kampong Chhnang, one of the largest fishing ports on Tonle Sap Lake. Fish farming is abundant here. The region is also known for its traditional pottery combining ancient knowledge with modern techniques—Chhnang itself means "pot." We'll enjoy a tasting of regional products before returning on board and beginning to cruise to Kampong Tralach. We'll have dinner and spend the night on board.



### Day 3 : KAMPONG TRALACH - KOH CHEN - PHNOM PENH

We will set out to visit the beautiful Vihara at the Wat Kampong Tralach Leu pagoda. To access the pagoda we need to cross the village of Kampong Tralach in "tuk-tuk", moving along a small road that runs perpendicular to the river in the middle of magnificent rice fields. After lunch, we'll arrive in Koh Chen. You can explore this small village where craftspeople specialize in silver and copper work. After returning on board, we'll spend the afternoon cruising towards Phnom Penh, arriving in the early evening. Enjoy a brief tour of the area by "tuk-tuk," the easiest way to get around the city. We'll return to the ship and enjoy a performance of classical Khmer dancing and music and have dinner.



### Day 4 : PHNOM PENH

We'll enjoy a tour of the fabulous Royal Palace, one of the most impressive examples of Cambodian architecture, and its Silver Pagoda. Onward to visit the National Museum. After lunch in town, you can pay a visit to the Tuol Svay Prey School, a former detention, torture, and execution center run by the Khmer Rouge during the civil war. Afterwards, enjoy some free time at the market. We'll return on board for dinner in the evening and start sailing towards Vietnam.



### Day 5 : CHAU DOC

Located on the border between Cambodia and Vietnam, the prosperous city of Chau Doc has developed around fish and fish farming. We'll pay a visit to the Ba Chua Xu Temple and the Tay An Pagoda. Lunch. Once we are back on board, we'll begin to cruise toward Sa Dec. We'll have dinner and spend the night on board.



### Day 6 : SA DEC - VINH LONG - CAI BE

Visit the former house of Huynh Thuy Le, the man who Marguerite Duras based her book *The Lover* on. After our excursion, enjoy some free time in Sa Dec. We'll have lunch on board and cruise to Vinh Long. We'll set out in smaller boats and travel through canals and orchards before arriving in Cai Be. We'll discover a brick and pottery factory as well as a traditional factory producing puffed riced, rice-paper wrappers used to make nems, and rice alcohol\*. We'll return on board our ship and begin to cruise. We'll have dinner and spend the night on board.



### Day 7 : MY THO - HO CHI MINH CITY (formerly Saigon)

We'll visit a bee farm and enjoy some honey tea and exotic fruit. We'll then take a ride in small sampans along the canal lined with mangrove palms. Lunch will be served on board. We'll then set out to cross the very narrow Chao Gao Canal, heading for Ho Chi Minh City. We'll have dinner and remain in port overnight in the downtown area.

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### Day 8 : HO CHI MINH CITY

Ho Chi Minh City was heavily influenced by French colonialism in the 19th century. We'll enjoy a tour of the city to see the Reunification Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral, and the Saigon Central Post Office, and visit the Museum of Vietnamese History. Lunch will be served on board. In the afternoon, we'll leave by coach for the Cu Chi tunnels, an immense network of underground tunnels that were used by Viet Cong soldiers as hiding spots during combat, as well as serving as communication and supply routes, hospitals, food and weapon caches. After our excursion, we'll return on board our ship. Tonight we'll have our farewell cocktail and dinner. We'll remain in port overnight.

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### Day 9 : HO CHI MINH CITY

Enjoy breakfast on board before disembarking. We'll spend the morning visiting Cholon, the Chinese-influenced section of the city, including its hectic market. After lunch in town, **we'll bid you farewell at approximately 2:00 p.m. Please do not book your flight before 5:00 p.m.**

### **This offer includes**

- **FOR DEPARTURES FROM JANUARY TO MAY 2024**

Your cruise in the cabin category of your choice - transfer of the boat to downtown Siem Reap - all meals - drinks at all meals (1 soft drink or 1 beer\* or 1 mineral water + 1 tea or coffee per person for each meal) - unlimited tea, coffee and mineral water during the cruise - visits and excursions mentioned in the program - the services of an english-speaking local tour guides and onboard CroisiEurope tour director - travel assistance and repatriation insurance - tips (excluding tips for crew members on board the ship).

Tips: To make your vacation worry-free, the equivalent of €35 per passenger will be given to service providers for your destination country as tips. We feel this amount is appropriate in consideration of local customs and practice.

- **FOR DEPARTURES FROM AUGUST TO DECEMBER 2024**

Your cruise in the cabin category of your choice - transfer of the boat to downtown Siem Reap - all meals - onboard drinks included (except for drinks from our special lists) - visits and excursions mentioned in the program - the services of an english-speaking local tour guides and onboard CroisiEurope tour director - travel assistance and repatriation insurance - tips.

Tips: To ensure our customers more pleasant stay, we've included 35€ per passenger for tips which will be entirely paid to the personnel from the countries to be visited and 45€ per passenger for crew members. This amount was determined while taking into consideration the local customs and etiquette.

### **This offer does not include**

- **FOR DEPARTURES FROM JANUARY TO MAY 2024**

International flights and their taxes - transfers not mentioned in the program - Cambodian and Vietnamese visas - cancellation and baggage insurance - tips for crew members on board the ship (for informational purposes, daily tips per passenger amount to US\$5) - drinks other than those mentioned.

- **FOR DEPARTURES FROM AUGUST TO DECEMBER 2024**

International flights and their taxes - transfers not mentioned in the program - Cambodian and Vietnamese visas - cancellation and baggage insurance - drinks on board from our special lists - drinks other than those mentioned.

### **Transport**

Port-to-port cruise without transfers

### **Formalities**

**Non-EU nationals are requested to consult their embassy or consulate.**

### **THE CROISIEUROPE DIFFERENCE**

- All meals included
- **Refined local cuisine**
- Headsets are included for excursions
- Official welcome from the captain and crew
- Tour leader or cruise director on board
- Onboard **activities** and/or **lectures**
- Travel assistance and repatriation insurance
- All port fees included

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### HEALTH FORMALITIES

Vaccines are not mandatory for this trip. However, it is advisable to be up to date with all vaccinations (tetanus, polio, hepatitis A and B, diphtheria, and typhoid fever). Your doctor will prescribe an antimalarial drug if necessary. Mosquito repellent is strongly recommended.

### WEATHER

The dry season lasts from December to April, but the air remains humid (temperature: 77° to 95°F). The rainy season, from May to November, can present very strong but brief storms that generally take place at the end of the afternoon.

### METHODS OF PAYMENT - CURRENCY EXCHANGE

- The currency accepted on board is the US dollar. You can pay in dollars or using an international credit/debit card (Visa and MasterCard) at the end of the cruise. In Cambodia, it is recommended to have some US dollars in cash with you. In Vietnam, if you wish to buy souvenirs, we recommend that you change about £20 or \$20 into dong on arrival.
- For the current exchange rates for the Vietnamese dong and the Cambodian riel, please consult websites such as [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com) or [www.oanda.com/currency/converter/](http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/).

### NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

- "Pchum Ben" in September
- "Water and Moon Festival" in November

During these days, some sites can be closed without warning.

### TIME DIFFERENCE

You can consult [www.worldtimezone.com](http://www.worldtimezone.com) to see the time difference between your home and your destination.

## MENTIONS

**These cruises and tours are not recommended for persons with reduced mobility as there are no lifts on board the ships.**

- Crossing Tonle Sap Lake: During the high-water season, usually from August to the end of November, the crossing will be done on your ship. In the low-water season, from December to February, the crossing will be done on high-speed boats (approximately 4 hours). In the very low-water season, from approximately February to April, the transfer from Siem Reap to Koh Chen to join your ship will be done in an air-conditioned coach (approximately 5 hours).
- Low waters can happen at any time during the year. The time frames are given as examples, but are dependent on the quality of rainfall.
- The banks of the river we will cruise on can be steep and slippery depending on the water level.
- The itinerary, stopovers, and excursions can be modified by the cruise company and our on-site representatives if needed. The captain of the ship is the sole authority who can modify the ship itinerary for safety or navigational reasons.
- Depending on the water level and the tides, the embarkation and disembarkation of passengers on board RV Indochine II may take place from the mini terraces of cabins 221 and 224 (located aft of the upper deck).

(1) Or similar, meeting points will be confirmed in your travel documentation.

\*Alcohol can be harmful to your health. Please drink in moderation.