



MAGNIFICENT MEKONG CRUISE

Fly & Cruise | 10 Days | Physical Level 1

Ho Chi Minh City – Victoria Mekong Upstream 7 Night Cruise (Dinh Yen – Lon Xuyen – Tiger Island – Vam Nao – Tan Chau – Phnom Penh – Oudong – Koh Chen – Koh Dach – Angkor Ban – Kampong Chham) – **Siem Reap**

- Visit 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

TOUR MAP



MAGNIFICENT MEKONG INCLUSIONS

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- 4-star accommodation
- 7-nights onboard the Victoria Mekong
- Meals as specified
- All sightseeing as specified
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking Local Guides
- Cambodia and Vietnam visa fees for Australian passport holders (please see visa section below for further information)
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants

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 10 days in duration including international flights in both directions as this is the most likely flight option from Australia. 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 1 in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) and end the tour on Day 9 in Siem Reap.

To book call **1300 727 998** or visit your local travel agent

Visit wendywutours.com.au

DETAILED ITINERARY**Days 1: Arrive Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)**

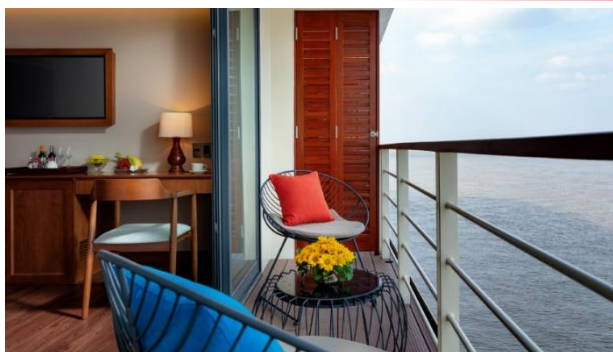
Meals: Nil

Fly to Ho Chi Minh City, also known as Saigon, 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 2: Ho Chi Minh – Can Tho – Victoria Mekong**

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, transfer to the cruise meeting point in Saigon then drive towards Can Tho, the beating heart of the Mekong Delta. Stop at the rustic, riverside town of Cai Be where lunch is served at the elegant Le Longanier Restaurant set amidst lush fruit trees by the river. Board the Victoria Mekong and meet your crew for the next 7 nights as you watch the sunset, sundowner in hand.



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 3: Long Xuyen & Tiger Island

Meals: B, L, D

Take a tender boat through a fascinating floating market to reach Long Xuyen. Visit the local museum, with its displays of ancient crafts. Later, head to Tiger Island. Visit a temple and observe local industries, such as incense-making, in action.



Day 4: Phu Tan and Tan Chau

Meals: B, L, D

Head ashore in Phu Tan and visit a craft village famous for its handmade clay stoves. Enjoy lunch on board as you cruise toward Tan Chau, where a rickshaw will take you to explore a colourful temple and market. This evening, experience a lion dance on the sky deck!

**Day 5: Cruise into Cambodia**

Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy onboard activities such as a ship's tour or a mini golf tournament as the ship crosses the border into Cambodia. We arrive late afternoon in the charming capital of Phnom Penh, once known as the "Pearl of the Orient" for its French colonial buildings, tree-lined boulevards and scenic river walk. Before dinner tonight, take in a lively performance of Khmer Apsara dancing.

**Day 6: Phnom Penh**

Meals: B, L, D

Hop on a cyclo and head to the elaborate Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda and National Museum. Later, pay your respects at the Killing Fields, where the Khmer Rouge executed over 1 million victims in the 1970s. Today, it is a memorial site for peaceful reflection. Return to the city and end the afternoon in style with a signature cocktail at Raffles Hotel Le Royal before returning to the ship for an interesting pre-dinner lecture about Cambodia.



Day 7: Oudong & Silk Island

Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy a walking tour of Koh Chen village, where you'll meet a local copper and silversmith, before continuing to the country's former capital, Oudong. Visit Buddhist monks at a meditation centre before taking a 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 8: Angkor Ban**

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, explore the village of Angkor Ban with its wooden stilt houses. Enjoy lunch on board as the Victoria Mekong sails to Wat Hanchey. Walk up the steps to this 7th-century hilltop temple, built under the Chenla Empire, and take in gorgeous panoramic views over the Mekong River.

**Day 9-10: Depart Siem Reap**

Meals: B, L

Disembark from the ship at Kampong Chham and travel through the lush Cambodian countryside to Siem Reap, gateway to the mystical Angkor complex. After lunch, continue to Siem Reap, arriving mid-afternoon and transfer to your flight to the Australia arriving the same or next day.

*If departing from Siem Reap today, flights must be arranged **no earlier than 7pm** to allow for transfer and airport check-in.*



CAMBODIA & 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 Australia.

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. For the latest information on visa procedures, processing times and requirements, please kindly refer to our website <https://www.wendywutours.com.au/help-and-advice/passports-and-visas>.

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 so y 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!

ACCOMMODATION:

All hotels have private western bathroom facilities, TV, and a telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your Local Guide.

Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort, or character. Hotels are generally rated as four-star standard but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between Australia, Cambodia and Vietnam. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards are met.

Please be aware that there are heightened security measures being carried out at all hotels, on guests and vehicles entering the properties.

PORTERAGE:

Please be aware that portorage 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.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: an air-conditioned coach will be used for all transfers and sightseeing.

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.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.travelvax.com.au

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.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.smartraveller.gov.au as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian 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: March 2024