

Cruise Saigon to Phnom Penh Jahan

6 Days | Ho Chi Minh City to Phnom Penh



Cruise the mighty Mekong from Ho Chi Minh City to Phnom Penh on board one of the finest Mekong River Cruisers, taking in colourful floating markets and visiting local communities in the Mekong Delta en route to Cambodia's capital, on this 6 day tour of Vietnam and Cambodia.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Cruise the Mekong for three nights on board one of the finest Mekong River Cruisers
- Practice Tai Chi at sunrise on the sun deck
- Learn to cook tasty local cuisine at a culinary class on board
- Cai Be - Visit Cai Be's colourful floating market and cottage industries
- Sa Dec - Take a traditional sampan to Binh Thanh Island
- Tan Chau - Explore the town on a traditional xelois, visit a local market and take a boat ride around floating houses and a fish farm
- Phnom Penh - Visit the National Museum of Fine Arts, the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda, Toul Sleng (Security Prison - S21) and the Killing Fields

- Saigon - Independently explore the city

What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 3 lunches and 3 dinners
- 2 nights 4 star hotels
- 3 nights on board the Jahan or Jayavarman River Cruiser on a full board basis. Inclusive - drinking water, coffee/tea, taxes, fuel, river pilots and port dues
- Group shore excursions - Cai Be floating market, Sa Dec, sampan tour of Binh Thanh and Tan Chau
- Private full day tour - Phnom Penh
- Entrance fees to all included sites
- English speaking local guides for scheduled sightseeing
- Airport arrival transfer on day 1 and departure transfer on day 6
- All transfers and transportation in air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Tipping for your River Cruiser staff. We recommend you allow USD\$8-10 per day, per traveller. Tipping is an entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Ho Chi Minh City

Arrive in Ho Chi Minh City and transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is free for you to explore the city. **Overnight - Ho Chi Minh City**

Day 2 : Mekong River Cruise



Ho Chi Minh City - Mekong River Cruising. Transfer 70km south to My Tho this morning where you'll board the luxurious Jahan or Jayavarman river cruiser for your three night cruise along the mighty Mekong River. As the ship plies the Mekong admire the views from your balcony, join tea time in the open air bar or opt for a swim in the pool. Enjoy a buffet lunch and dinner on board before the cruiser docks near Cai Be this evening. Cai Be is a charming small town, famous for its floating market and manufacturing of traditional crafts and food products. **Overnight - River Cruise (B, L, D)**

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Day 3 : Cai Be & Sa Dec



You can start your morning with an invigorating Tai Chi class on the sun deck, just as the sun begins to rise. After a sumptuous buffet breakfast enjoy an excursion to the Cai Be floating market and visit a workshop to learn how rice paste, rice paper and rice wine is made. Back on board your cruiser continues its journey to Sa Dec where you'll set out on a traditional sampan tour to Binh Thanh Island. Binh Thanh is one of the larger Mekong islands where communities have settled and make their living by growing water hyacinths. Wander through the village and gain an insight into rural life in the Mekong.

Returning to the boat you can opt to pamper yourself with a spa treatment or take a dip in our pool on the sun deck. This evening there will be a presentation about life on the Mekong Delta. The cruiser moors near Tan Chau tonight. Dinner is served and afterwards you can join our evening cinema session (offered every night) featuring selected classic movies. **Overnight - River Cruise (B, L, D)**

Day 4 : Tan Chau



Mekong River Cruising - Phnom Penh. Today begins with an excursion to the quiet town of Tan Chau, which you'll explore from the back of 'xelois' - a local vehicle used as taxis in the region. Stop at the colourful local market near one of the ancient temples, where you can barter with the local vendors. Then board

a local boat for cruise around the floating houses to finally reach a floating fish farm. This region is the source of fish production to be sold all over the world and we can see closely how fish farmings works.

Back on board the cruiser your journey continues to the Vietnamese-Cambodian border. Relax and enjoy a fascinating and leisurely cruise through the deep Cambodia countryside towards Phnom Penh. A culinary class is offered this afternoon, where you can learn to cook tasty local cuisine. Dinner is served before the cruiser docks in Phnom Penh and this evening you're free to head out and explore the Cambodian capital before spending your final night on board. **Overnight - River Cruise (B, L, D)**

Day 5 : Phnom Penh sightseeing



Your cruise comes to an end this morning with a transfer to your hotel in Phnom Penh. Located on the banks of the Mekong River, Cambodia's energetic capital is noted for its beautiful colonial architecture and historic sites. Take in the highlights of Phnom Penh on a full day sightseeing tour today. Starting at the National Museum of Fine Arts, housing the world's finest collection of Khmer sculpture, continue with the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda, famed for its lavish decorations – the floors are paved with silver tiles and statues of Buddha are encrusted with thousands of diamonds.

This afternoon come face to face with the horrors of the Pol Pot regime on a visit to Toul Sleng (Security Prison - S21), a school that was gruesomely transformed into a torture chamber under the Khmer Rouge, and the

Killing Fields, where over 10,000 people were executed. **Overnight - Phnom Penh (B)**

Day 6 : Phnom Penh

Your journey comes to an end today with a transfer to the airport for your onward travel. Arrangements can be made for you to continue your holiday through to Siem Reap to see the breathtaking temples of Angkor.(B)

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

Liberty Central Hotel

The brilliantly located Liberty Central is a modern hotel with stylish, well-appointed rooms and suites and a good range of facilities and amenities. The Central Restaurant offers Western, Asian and Vietnamese specialities and the hotel's health centre, spa and pool are ideal for a spot of rest and relaxation. Guests can enjoy coffee and freshly baked pastries at the Bistro Bar.



RV Jahan Cruise

Named after the former Indian emperor Shah Jahan, the Jahan is one of the Heritage Line's most romantic cruisers. The superior staterooms are designed with warming red tones complimented with stunning white furnishings. All staterooms have private balconies and queen size beds. The Jahan cruise boat benefits from a whole host of excellent amenities on board including the stylish East India Club, a great place to relax and sip a delicious beverage and the elegant Observatory. The boat also has an onsite Apsara Spa and outdoor pool.

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Queen Grand Boutique Hotel

The perfect blend of traditional architecture and contemporary style, the Queen Grand Boutique Hotel is appropriately situated near to the Royal Palace. Guest rooms are designed with a touch of Khmer style but with a modern flare. The hotel also benefits from an onsite restaurant and bar, rooftop jacuzzi and Sky Bar. Located very close to the iconic Royal Palace, one of Phnom Penh's top sights.



Essential packing

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit www.worldclimate.com to get an idea of what the weather will be like on your holiday.

- Lightweight cotton garments. Ladies will need to have their shoulders and legs (to below the knee) covered when visiting the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh and Angkor Wat. Please pack accordingly
- Comfortable walking shoes in addition to flip flops/thongs
- DEET based mosquito repellent and antihistamine cream
- Bring a 2 flat prong (type A) and a 2 round pin (type C) electrical adaptors - a universal adaptor is best
- Lightweight, fold up raincoat/poncho/umbrella
- Your Tour Voucher, two spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport photos and photocopy of your passport
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume and torch

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Cambodia Country Guide

Visas & passports

Visa requirements are subject to change and visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Cambodia.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book all services. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. For information about visas, head to www.onthegotours.com/Cambodia/Visas

What to expect in Cambodia

Please visit www.onthegotours.com/Cambodia/Travel-tips-and-useful-info for local customs, currency, WiFi and other helpful information to prepare you for your holiday.

Health requirements & water

You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling.

Water

Tap water in Cambodia is not considered safe to drink. It's recommended to only drink bottled mineral water, which is readily available in hotels, shops and restaurants.

Airline luggage allowance

If your tour includes international or domestic flights within the region please be mindful that the free baggage allowance for Economy class travel is strictly 20kg and 1 piece of hand luggage up to 6kg. Any additional weight is charged at a per kilo rate. You may wish to bear this in mind whilst shopping.

Vietnam Country Guide

Welcome to Vietnam - Arrival transfer

A complimentary airport arrival transfer is provided on our Signature Range Tours, Private Tours and Short Stays if you are arriving on day 1 or you have booked pre tour accommodation with us. An arrival transfer is not included on our Essentials Range tours*.

Arrival procedure for Hanoi - Noi Bai International Airport and Ho Chi Minh City - Tan Son Nhat International Airport. Upon arrival, please proceed to the immigration counter and pay the visa stamping fee of USD\$25 (if applicable). After collecting your luggage proceed to the arrival hall and go to the meeting point detailed on your Tour Voucher.

If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative (after waiting 20 minutes) or your flight is delayed, please call or send a text message (standard text message, not Messenger or WhatsApp) to the emergency contact number as stated on your Tour Voucher.

Please note: If arriving prior to 9am on day 1 (essentially on a flight that arrives very, very early in the morning) you will need to purchase a night of pre-tour accommodation to save you waiting until standard hotel check in time which is generally 2pm. Breakfast is included with our pre tour accommodation rates.

***Essentials Tours: Please note, airport transfers are NOT included on our budget Essentials Range of tours, please make your own way to the start hotel noted on your Tour Voucher.** Transfers can be booked upon request for an additional fee, please contact us for rates.

Visas & passports

Visa requirements are subject to change and visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Vietnam.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to

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Health requirements & water

You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling.

Water

The tap water in Vietnam is generally considered safe to drink, but as a precaution against stomach upsets you may want to drink bottled mineral water, which is readily available from shops, hotels and restaurants.

What to expect in Vietnam

Please visit www.onthegotours.com/Vietnam/Travel-tips-and-useful-info for local customs, currency, WiFi and other helpful information to prepare you for an enjoyable holiday.

Airline luggage allowance

If your tour includes international or domestic flights within the region please be mindful that the free baggage allowance for Economy class travel is strictly 20kg and 1 piece of hand luggage up to 6kg. Any additional weight is charged at a per kilo rate. You may wish to bear this in mind whilst shopping.

Trains in Vietnam

It's not the Orient Express, but Vietnam's Reunification Express. On a number of our group tours we include an overnight train journey on the Reunification Express Railway Line between Hanoi and Hue and on our budget Essentials Range tours we include a second overnight train journey from Danang to Mui Ne. The particular SE series train that we use is the highest class of train available in Vietnam. It's titled as being the nation's fastest train; though by international standards it's quite the opposite. Nevertheless, our journey between Hanoi and Hue takes approximately 14 hours and travellers are accommodated in 4 berth 'Soft Sleeper' cabins.

Aboard each wagon are 9 compartments that comprise of 4 bunks per compartment. 4

persons of mixed sex share one compartment. You may be sharing with people from your tour group, other tourists or Vietnamese people. Who you will share your cabin with is ultimately dependent upon how the Vietnamese Railways Corporation configures the bookings.

Cabins onboard are comfortable though not comparable to European standards. A western style toilet (with a varying degree of cleanliness) is located at either end of the wagon. Air-conditioning (not always operational in the summer) and lighting are controlled from inside the cabin, which is also lockable. Luggage can be stored in a compartment under the bottom bunk. Linen and a pillow are provided though we strongly recommend that you bring your own sleep sheet (easily purchased in Hanoi at a cost of USD\$5). The cleanliness of the train varies according to wagons assigned to the journey for that particular day. Some wagons are spotlessly clean whilst others can be unclean and should have been decommissioned long ago. Irrespective of the particular wagon, they all have large clear glass windows that allow for uninterrupted views of stunning landscapes and never ending rice paddy fields.

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