

# Cruise Saigon to Angkor Wat Jahan

## 11 days | Ho Chi Minh City to Siem Reap



*Cruise the Mekong River on this 11 day journey through Vietnam and Cambodia. Experience the hustle and bustle of Ho Chi Minh City before taking in colourful floating markets and local communities of the Mekong Delta. Crossing into Cambodia travel on to the capital Phnom Penh, marvel at Tonle Sap and gaze in wonder at spectacular Angkor Wat.*

### HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

#### Trip Highlights

- Saigon - independently explore the city
- Cruise the Mekong and Tonle rivers for seven nights on board one of the finest River Cruisers
- Cai Be - visit Cai Be's colourful floating market and cottage industries
- Practice Tai Chi at sunrise on the sun deck
- 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
- Learn to cook tasty local cuisine at a culinary class on board

- Angkor Temple Complex - explore Ta Prohm, legendary Angkor Wat and the temples of Angkor Thom
- Phnom Penh - visit the National Museum of Fine Arts, the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda, Toul Sleng (Security Prison - S21) and the Killing Fields
- Tonle Sap Lake - cruise across Asia's largest fresh water lake (High water season only)
- Kampong Chhnang - discover Cambodia's wonderful "water world" with its floating villages
- Angkor Ban village - step back in time on a visit to this unspoiled rural community
- Mekong - meet the children at a local school, visit the pre-Angkorian temple of Wat Hanchey and the colourful monastery of Wat Nokor

#### What's Included

- 10 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 7 dinners
- 7 nights on board the Jahan or Jayavarman River Cruiser, on a full board basis with drinking water, coffee/tea included, taxes, fuel, river pilots and port dues
- 3 nights 4 star hotels
- Group shore-excursions to Cai Be floating market, Sa Dec, sampan tour of Binh Thanh, Tan Chau, Phnom Penh, Angkor Ban, Koh Oknha Tey Island
- Full day tour of Angkor Temples in Siem Reap.

- Airport arrival transfer on day 1 and departure transfer on day 11
- All transfers and transportation in air-conditioned vehicles
- English speaking local guides for scheduled sightseeing
- All entrance fees

#### What's Not Included

- International flights and visas.
- Tipping - is an entirely personal gesture. For the River Cruiser gratuities we recommend budgeting 8-10 USD per passenger per day.

### 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 at your own pace. **Overnight - Ho Chi Minh City**

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## Day 2 : Mekong River Cruise



Ho Chi Minh City - Mekong River Cruising. This morning travel 70km south to My Tho to board the luxurious Jahan or Jayavarman river cruiser for your seven night cruise along the mighty Mekong River. Whilst the boat plies the Mekong you can admire the views from the deck, sip cocktails in the bar or opt for a dip in the pool. A sumptuous lunch and dinner will be served 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)

## Day 3 : Cai Be & Sa Dec



Start the day with an invigorating Tai Chi class on the sun deck, a past time enjoyed by many in Asia. After breakfast head on to land to visit the famous Cai Be floating market. From here you'll visit a workshop to learn how rice paste, rice paper and rice wine is made. Returning to your cruiser, journey onward to Sa Dec, from here you'll transfer on to a traditional sampan to tour Binh Thanh Island. One of the larger Mekong Islands, Binh Thanh is home to communities who have settled and make their living by growing water hyacinths. Wander through the village and gain an insight into rural life in the Mekong.

This afternoon you can opt to pamper yourself with a spa treatment or take a dip in our pool on the sun deck. A presentation will be offered

this evening about life on the Mekong Delta. Tonight the cruiser moors near Tan Chau. After dinner tonight you can join an evening cinema session (offered each night) featuring some classic movies. **Overnight - River Cruise** (B, L, D)

## Day 4 : Tan Chau



Mekong River Cruising - Phnom Penh. This morning start the day with a visit to sleepy town of Tan Chau, which you'll explore from the back of 'xelois' - a local vehicle used as taxis in the region. Here you'll visit the colourful local market near one of the ancient temples, try your hand at bartering with some of the local vendors. Next, board a local boat to see the floating houses located here before reaching a floating fish farm. This area is a large source of fish production which is sold all over the world.

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. **Overnight - River Cruise** (B, L, D)

## Day 5 : Phnom Penh



Nestled on the banks of the Mekong River, the vibrant capital of Cambodia is famed for its impressive colonial architecture and historic sites. Enjoy the highlights of Phnom Penh as you embark on a full day of sightseeing today. This morning you will learn about the horrors that were faced by Cambodians during the brutal regime of the 'Khmer Rouge' and their leader Pol Pot. First stop is the Killing Fields, where over 100,000 victims were executed, before continuing to Toul Sleng (Security Prison - S21), a school that was gruesomely transformed into a torture chamber.

This afternoon visit the National Museum of Fine Arts, with its impressive collection of Khmer sculptures, continue to the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda, gaze upon the lavishly decorated buildings – with floors paved with silver tiles and statues of Buddha encrusted with thousands of diamonds, a true sight to behold. **Overnight - River Cruise** (B, L, D)

## Day 6 : Kampong Chhnang

LOW WATER SEASON (mid-November - end of July)

Phnom Penh - Kampong Chhnang - Tonle River. The ship will depart early this morning as you sail towards Kampong Tralach on Cambodia's narrow Tonle River through much jungle like scenery. Reaching the shore by boat you'll visit the local Green School.

Back on board a hearty lunch is served as the ship cruises towards Kampong Chhnang - the water world of Cambodia. Everything here is built on sticks - balanced on the water rich soil. Later you will head back on land and take a mini bus to a nearby village for a walking tour and introduction into Khmer style pottery and

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the production of palm sugar. Tonight the ship will moor mid-river in the Tonle area.

**HIGH WATER SEASON** (August to mid-November)

Phnom Penh - Kampong Cham. The cruiser will depart early this morning as you travel towards the small village of Angkor Ban. Famed for its unspoiled community, having escaped the destruction of the Khmer Rouge, you'll have a sense of being transported back in time as you explore this warm and welcoming village.

This afternoon, continue down the Mekong before paying a visit to a local school to understand more about the education of Cambodian children. Next, visit Wat Hanchey, built in the 7th century this small complex sits upon hill with breathtaking views down the Mekong. Another temple is located nearby, the colourful monastery of Wat Nokor will showcase the life and worship of the local monks. Return to the boat this evening for dinner. **Overnight - River Cruise** (B, L, D)

## Day 7 : Koh Oknha Tey Island



**LOW WATER SEASON** (mid-November - end of July)

Tonle River - Kampong Cham. This morning you'll sail from towards the mighty Mekong passing the confluence at Phnom Penh. Arriving at Koh Oknha Tey in the centre of the Mekong - a tuk tuk takes you around the island - famous for its manufacture of high class silk and you'll stop at a silk making workshop. Back on board before lunch your expert guides will teach you about the Geography of the Mekong and the Tonle Sap' giving you an insightful presentation of your current location.

After lunch the ship continues to the quaint village of Angkor Ban - famous for beautiful

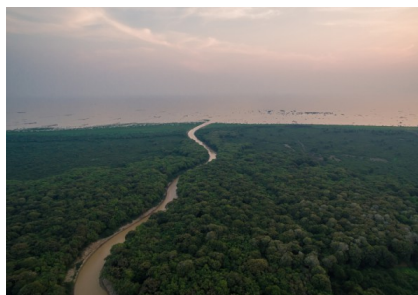
traditional houses. Later on you'll enjoy a cocktail party on the riverbank. Dinner is served onboard as your ship cruises to Kampong Cham for the night.

**HIGH WATER SEASON** (August to mid-November)

Kampong Cham - Kampong Chhnang. Enjoy the views of the Mekong at breakfast this morning as you voyage to the island of Koh Oknha Tey. Renowned for its high quality silk products, explore the island by tuk tuk and learn the fascinating process of silk production, from silkworm to final garment.

After lunch a monks blessing will take place on board the boat, with the intention of casting away the bad spirits and delivering prosperity. Later, the boat will reach the confluence of the Mekong and Tonle River before heading through the jungle like landscape on the way to Kampong Chhnang. On the banks of the river see people going about their daily lives and you may be greeted by excitable and friendly local children. The last point of call for the day is the local Green School. **Overnight - River Cruise** (B, L, D)

## Day 8 : Kampong Cham



**LOW WATER SEASON** (mid-November - end of July)

The first stop of the day is Wat Hanchey - a pre-Angkorian temple built back in the 7th century - sitting on top of a hill it offers spectacular views across the Mekong. This afternoon you'll visit the colourful monastery of Wat Nokor. Whilst here there is the opportunity to see the bamboo bridge that connects the island to the mainland. This is only possible in the low water season and the bridge is rebuilt every year when the water level drops again.

Next up there is a visit to a local school to learn more about the new young generation of Cambodian children. This evening is out last night onboard and it is celebrated with a farewell dinner and dancing with the crew.

**HIGH WATER SEASON** (August to mid-November)

Kampong Chhnang - Tonle Lake. After a morning Tai Chi class the boat will sail into Kampong Chhnang, an incredible village of houses and businesses perched on sticks in the river. Joining a smaller boat, cruise around this fascinating floating village before embarking on a tour of a local community which specialises in Khmer pottery.

This afternoon enjoy lunch on board as the boat meanders down the Tonle River before reaching the Great Tonle Sap Lake. This awe-inspiring mass of water is the largest fresh water lake in Asia and provides the setting for a relaxing high tea this afternoon. **Overnight - River Cruise** (B, L, D)

## Day 9 : Siem Reap



**LOW WATER SEASON** (mid-November - end of July)

Kampong Cham - Siem Reap. After your last breakfast on board it is time to disembark. Your next stop is Siem Reap and a transfer (4.5 hours approx) takes you there and arrival into the town is expected in the early afternoon. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

**HIGH WATER SEASON** (August to mid-November)

Tonle Lake - Siem Reap. This morning the river cruise makes its final journey through Tonle Sap Lake before arriving into Siem Reap. Tonle Sap Lake is the life blood for many Cambodians and reportedly has more fish than any other lake in the world. As you disembark the cruise boat in Siem Reap you'll

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be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore this pretty town. **Overnight - Siem Reap (B)**

## Day 10 : Angkor Wat



Today enjoy a full day of sightseeing at the incredible Angkor Complex. The first stop is the ancient city of Angkor Thom, the centre piece, the Bayon temple, was constructed in the 12th century and is an amazing example of bas-reliefs, particularly in the east and south gallery. At Angkor Thom you'll also visit Baphuon Temple and the Terraces of the Elephants & the Leper King. Next continue to Ta Prohm temple, also known as 'Tomb-Raider Temple', which is a maze of atmospheric temples, with trees and other foliage intertwined with the crumbling walls.

This afternoon visit spectacular Angkor Wat, a temple that needs little introduction. One of the most iconic temples in the world it was built by Suryavarman II and was completed during the 12th century. It is one of the most phenomenal devotions to a god ever conceived. **Overnight - Siem Reap (B)**

## Day 11 : Siem Reap

Arrangements conclude after breakfast and onward departure transfer to the airport.(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.



### Saem Siemreap Hotel

Just a short walk from the famous Pub Street of Siem Reap, the Saem Siemreap Hotel offers beautiful accommodation in a tranquil setting. Guest rooms are tastefully decorated with hard wood floors and contemporary en suite facilities. The hotel benefits from complimentary Wi-Fi as well as an outdoor pool and a number of restaurants and bars including the Silver Restaurant serving up a delicious array of Asian and Continental dishes. The Saem is located just a 5 minute

drive from the famous Old Market in the garden village of Sala Kanseng.

