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## **FROM THE MEKONG DELTA TO THE ANGKOR TEMPLES, HANOI, AND HALONG BAY (PORT-TO-PORT CRUISE)**

**Trip Code:** 1H6\_REPP

**Duration:** 15

**Destination:**

**Travel Dates:** 2022

### **DAY 1 HANOI**

Meet at the Lamblot restaurant between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Lunch. In the afternoon, visit the outside of the historic Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, Ho Chi Minh's humble stilt house behind the mausoleum, and the unique One Pillar Pagoda Buddhist temple. We'll also visit the Temple of Literature, built in 1070 and dedicated to Confucius. Enjoy a pedi-cab ride to see the local "Embassy Row" with its French colonial-style architecture. This evening, we'll watch a traditional water puppetry show. We'll have dinner in the city before spending the night at the four-star hotel.

### **DAY 2 HANOI - HALONG BAY**

We'll leave early in the morning for Halong Bay (approx. 3.5 hours travel time). We'll be welcomed aboard a junk, enjoy a cocktail, and have lunch. Our cruise begins by discovering the thousands of various limestone islands dotting the emerald-colored bay. We'll enjoy dinner on board this evening. Our ship will remain anchored overnight.

### **DAY 3 HALONG BAY - HANOI**

Rise early with us this morning and participate in a Tai Chi class on deck. We'll continue our cruise through the bay, discovering more of its extraordinary scenery and visiting one of the largest caves. Brunch will be served before you disembark at 11:00 a.m. and begin your trip back to Hanoi. Before arriving, we'll stop off at the Dinh Bang communal hall and taste a PHO soup. We'll have dinner and spend the night at the 4\*LS hotel in Hanoi.

### **DAY 4 HANOI - HO CHI MINH CITY**

You'll catch a flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Transfer to the city centre and lunch. In the afternoon, we'll enjoy a tour of the city to see the Reunification Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral, and the Saigon Central Post Office. Next, we'll head to Cholon, the Chinese-influenced section of the city, to tour its hectic market and the Thien Hau temple. You'll then be transferred to our ship. After comfortably settling into your cabins, we'll introduce our crew at a welcome cocktail. We'll have dinner and spend the night on the ship, which will remain moored in

central Ho Chi Minh City.

## **DAY 5 HO CHI MINH CITY**

We'll leave by coach for the Cu Chi tunnels, an immense network of underground tunnels that were the location of several military campaigns during the Vietnam War. After lunch, join us for a visit to the Museum of Vietnamese History. Our ship will begin to cruise toward the splendid Cho Gao canal. We'll spend the night on board.

## **DAY 6 CHO GAO - MY THO - VINH LONG - CAI BE**

During our passage through the Cho Gao Canal, you'll discover the daily life in Vietnam—organized around fishing, farming, and transport. In My Tho, 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. Enjoy lunch on board. Vinh Long is located in the middle of the Delta region, between two of the Mekong's distributaries. We'll discover a brick and pottery factory, a fruit-tree nursery, puffed riced, rice-paper wrappers, and rice alcohol.\* We'll spend the night on board.

## **DAY 7 SA DEC**

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 return on board and cast off as you sit down to lunch. Our ship will begin to cruise to Cambodia. We'll spend the night on board.

## **DAY 8 CHAU DOC - PHNOM PENH**

After breakfast and our arrival in Chau Doc, we'll visit a local fish farm, the Ba Chua Xu Temple, and the Tay An Pagoda. We'll enjoy lunch on board before arriving in Phnom Penh in the evening. Enjoy a brief tour of the area by "tuk-tuk," the easiest way to get around the city. We'll have dinner on board and remain in port overnight.

## **DAY 9 PHNOM PENH**

We'll enjoy a tour of the fabulous Royal Palace and the Silver Pagoda, which is inlaid with more than 5,000 silver tiles. After, join us for a visit to the National Museum of Cambodia. We'll have lunch in the city. In the afternoon, 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 to the ship and enjoy a performance of classical Khmer dancing and music. We'll have dinner on board and remain in port overnight. The rest of the evening is yours to do as you please.

## **DAY 10 KOH CHEN - KAMPONG TRALACH**

Once we arrive in Koh Chen, you can explore this small village where craftspeople specialize in silver and copper work. Enjoy lunch on board. We'll head to Kampong Tralach 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 ox carts, moving along a small road that runs perpendicular to the river in the middle of magnificent rice fields. Our

ship will remain anchored overnight.

## **DAY 11 KAMPONG CHHNANG - TONLE SAP LAKE**

This morning, we'll visit the mysterious Beng Mealea temple, whose ruins were once utterly consumed by jungle. The temple was built in the 12th century and used the same floor plan as Angkor Wat. We'll have lunch in the city. We'll visit the Senteurs d'Angkor, a local business with a diverse collection of silk and carvings, as well as a superb range of traditional beauty products and spices, all made locally. We'll also visit a silk farm to learn about the complex process of creating the luxurious fabric. We'll end the day with Phare, the Cambodian circus, and spend the night at the hotel.

## **DAY 12 SIEM REAP - ANGKOR TEMPLES**

We'll spend the morning cruising the river before disembarking and having lunch on shore. After, we'll visit the Angkor Wat temple: the epitome of Khmer architectural art and the most famous and imposing of all the monuments in Angkor. Enjoy a stroll through the Angkor Night Market. Dinner and overnight in hotel (Accommodations will be at either a 4-star or 5-star hotel according to the cruise you choose).

## **DAY 13 SIEM REAP - ANGKOR TEMPLES**

This morning, we'll visit the mysterious Beng Mealea temple, whose ruins were once utterly consumed by jungle. The temple was built in the 12th century and used the same floor plan as Angkor Wat. We'll have lunch in the city. We'll visit the Senteurs d'Angkor, a local business with a diverse collection of silk and carvings, as well as a superb range of traditional beauty products and spices, all made locally. We'll also visit a silk farm to learn about the complex process of creating the luxurious fabric. We'll end the day with Phare, the Cambodian circus, and spend the night at the hotel.

## **DAY 14 SIEM REAP - ANGKOR TEMPLES**

We'll leave for a visit of Banteay Srei, a 10th-century Cambodian temple dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva—widely praised as the “Jewel of Khmer Art.” Rediscovered among the vines of the forest in 1914, it is the only temple carved in hard pink sandstone in the Angkor region. We'll also visit the Cambodian Landmine Museum, run by Aki Ra, a former conscripted child soldier who has devoted his life to removing landmines. We'll have lunch in the city before visiting the Angkor National Museum, dedicated to providing information and education about art and culture of Khmer civilization. Enjoy some free time before returning to the ship. Tonight, we will celebrate Christmas with a gala dinner. We'll spend the night at the hotel.

## **DAY**

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