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## FROM THE TEMPLES OF ANGKOR TO THE MEKONG DELTA & THE IMPERIAL CITIES (PORT-TO-PORT CRUISE) - NEW YEAR

**Trip Code:** 1R9\_REPP

**Duration:** 18

**Destination:** Siem Reap - TONLE SAP - KAMPONG TRALACH - PHNOM PENH - CHAU DOC - SA  
DEC - MY THO - HO CHI MINH CITY - Hué - Hoi An - Hanoi - Halong Bay

**Travel Dates:** 2020/2021

### DAY 1 SIEM REAP - ANGKOR

Your program will begin according to your time of arrival in Siem Reap. If your flight arrives between 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., your program will be: Accommodations will be at either a 4-star or 5-star hotel according to the cruise you choose. Lunch will be served at the hotel between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., and you'll be able to check into your room at 2 p.m. This afternoon, we'll visit the Senteurs d'Angkor: 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 Artisans Angkor, which states its goal as "the ambitious belief that it is possible to revive ancient Cambodian arts & crafts while improving the lives of thousands of people living in rural areas." Enjoy a stroll through the Angkor Night Market. We'll have dinner and spend the night at the hotel.

### DAY 2 SIEM REAP - ANGKOR

We'll explore Angkor Thom, the monumental temple of Bayon—famous for its towers and 172 faces of Avalokitesvara, and Ta Prohm. After lunch in town, we'll leave for a visit of Banteay Srei. This evening, we'll have dinner in a restaurant in town before ending the day with Phare, the Cambodian circus, and spending the night at the hotel.

### DAY 3 SIEM REAP

Visit of the Temples of Roluos. Lunch. Gondola ride in the moat of Angkor Wat. Visit of the temple of Ta Prohm. Dinner before ending the day with Phare, the Cambodian circus, and spending the night at the hotel.

### DAY 4 SIEM REAP - TONLE SAP

We'll visit the Angkor Wat temple: the epitome of Khmer architectural art. It is the largest religious monument in the world and an architectural masterpiece. Lunch will be served at the hotel. In the early afternoon, you'll be transferred from the hotel to the ship. After comfortably settling into your cabins, we'll introduce our crew at a welcome cocktail and have dinner on board. Our ship will remain anchored overnight.

### DAY 5 TONLE SAP - KAMPONG CHHNANG - KAMPONG TRALACH

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. Our ship will remain anchored overnight.

### DAY 6 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 ox carts, 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. We'll remain in port overnight.

#### **DAY 7 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. Our ship will remain anchored overnight.

#### **DAY 8 CHAU DOC - SA DEC (VIETNAM)**

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. Once we are back on board, we'll begin to cruise toward Sa Dec. We'll have dinner. Our ship will remain anchored overnight.

#### **DAY 9 SA DEC - VINH LONG - CAI BE**

Once we arrive in Sa Dec, discover the local market and visit the former house of Huynh Thuy Le, the man who Marguerite Duras based her book *The Lover* on. 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. Our ship will remain anchored overnight.

#### **DAY 10 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.

#### **DAY 11 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.

#### **DAY 12 HO CHI MINH CITY - HUÉ**

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, you'll be transferred to the airport and board a flight to Hué. You'll check into a 4-star hotel and have dinner.

#### **DAY 13 HUÉ**

Visit of the Tombs of Khai Dinh and Tu Duc, and the Tu Hieu Pagoda. We'll have lunch in town. Afterwards, we'll visit the Imperial City. This citadel was built between 1805 and 1832 and is an outstanding example of an eastern feudal capital. We'll also visit the Dong Ba Market, have dinner in the city, and return to the hotel for the night.

#### **DAY 14 HUÉ - DA NANG - HOI AN**

Transfer by boat along the Perfume River to the Thien Mu Pagoda. We'll then visit Kim Long Village and have lunch in town. Afterwards, we'll leave for Da Nang, where we'll visit the Museum of Cham Sculpture, which houses the largest collection of these unique works. On our way back, we'll stop off at China Beach. You'll then be transferred to Hoi An, where you'll check into your 4\*LS hotel. We'll have dinner in the city, and spend the night at the hotel.

#### **DAY 15 HOI AN - MY SON - HOI AN**

Visit of My Son which was the imperial city of Champa's empire. Afterwards, we'll return to Hoi An, and have lunch in town. This afternoon will be spent visiting Hoi An. The Ancient Town is one of the major attractions of the Da Nang area with more than 800 buildings of historical interest. We'll tour the Fujian Assembly Hall, the Phuc Thanh pagoda, and the Japanese Covered Bridge on foot. We'll have dinner in the city, and spend the night at the hotel.

#### **DAY 16 HOI AN - DA NANG - HANOI**

You'll be transferred to the Da Nang airport for a flight to Hanoi. We'll have lunch in town. Afterwards, we'll discover the old quarter of the city by pedi-cab or electric mini-bus. Visit of the embassy district with its many colonial buildings. We'll finish up our day with a traditional water puppetry show, have dinner in the city, and spend the night at a 3\*LS hotel.

#### **DAY 17 HANOI - HALONG BAY**

Leaving for Halong Bay (approx. 3.5 hours travel time). Enjoy a cocktail and have lunch on board. We'll begin our cruise to discover the thousands of various limestone islands dotting the emerald-colored bay. We'll have dinner and spend the night on board.

#### **DAY 18 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. This morning, brunch will be served on board. You'll disembark at 11:00 a.m. and begin the trip back to Hanoi. Before arriving, we'll stop off at the Dinh Bang communal hall, one of the largest and finest communal houses in Vietnam. You'll be served a light dinner before being transferred to the airport for your return trip. End of our services around 6.00 p.m. at the airport. Please do not book any flights before 8.00 p.m.

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