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## FROM THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA TO HALONG BAY WITH LUXURY MEKONG RIVER CRUISE

**Trip Code:** TTC3134TC

**Duration:** 19

**Destination:** China, Vietnam & Cambodia

**Travel Dates:** 2022

### DAY 1 BEIJING ARRIVAL

Upon your arrival at the Beijing airport, your local guide will meet you and escort you to your hotel.

The rest of the day is yours to relax and enjoy free time at leisure.

### DAY 2 BEIJING CITY TOUR (B,L)

Today you will first visit Tiananmen Square followed by the magnificent Forbidden City and then the Temple of Heaven.

- Tiananmen Square: It is the largest city square in the world and the spiritual heart of China, where the national flag is raised exactly at sunrise every day.
- The Forbidden City: It is located in the center of Beijing, used to be the imperial palace of the Ming and Qing dynasties with a history of around 600 years, it is the grandest integral palace complex still remaining in China. Note: It is closed on Monday.
- Temple of Heaven: It is the place which was visited yearly by the emperors who performed intricate rituals to insure a good harvest for the whole nation at ancient times.

### DAY 3 GREAT WALL OF CHINA (B,L)

You will visit to the magnificent Great Wall (Mutianyu section, round trip cable car included) and then visit the Sacred Road.

This most famous symbol of China and one of the world's most remarkable architectural wonders, was built over 2,000 years ago and stretching about 6,700km.

- Round-trip cable car for Mutianyu Great Wall is included. (Chair-lift and toboggan are also available at an additional cost. If you want to change to any of them, please inform the local guide before he or she purchases the tickets for round-trip cable car for you. Please pay the extra charge in cash to the local guide.)
- Sacred Road is a path lined with stone statues of animals, mystical beasts and officials who serve the emperor in his afterlife, through which the sitting emperors would go to perform memorial rituals for the ancestors once a year.

### DAY 4 BEIJING TO HANOI- HANOI OLD QUARTER TOUR & WATER PUPPET SHOW (B)

This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Hanoi.

Upon your arrival in Noi Bai Airport you will be collected and taken to your hotel.

In the afternoon our driver will pick you up for your tour in Hanoi's old quarter where you will experience traditional street life.

You will also have the opportunity to watch a Water Puppet show before being returned to your hotel.

#### **DAY 5 HANOI- HALONG BAY (B,L,D)**

Your air-conditioned transfer vehicle will collect you from your hotel in Hanoi and convey you to Hai Phong where our support vessel will take you to board our luxurious craft, Era Cruise.

After welcoming you aboard with a complimentary drink, our crew will conduct a compulsory safety procedure session and then you are free to check into your cabin and freshen up and explore our luxuriously-appointed ship then watch the magical landscape go past.

A special lunch of fresh seafood and an assortment of appetizing delicacies will be served as we set sail for Lan Ha Bay, passing Da Chong islet where you can see an ancient lighthouse built by the French over a century ago. The final part of the cruise takes us through the Cua Van area to Lan Ha Bay (part of Halong Bay). The 300 or so karst islands and limestone outcrops of Lan Ha are stunning with their pristine, snow-white beaches. You can explore Ba Trai Dao beach or Tra Bau area via kayaks or immerse yourself in the crystal clear waters.

It's time to return to your lavish liner and cruise to your evening accommodation in time for "Happy Hour". We offer an extensive drinks list including special offers such as two for one drinks.

Our Vietnamese cooking demonstration is a great way to learn how to prepare delicious appetizers and we will guide you through the process prior to our Signature Dinner in our distinctive restaurant.

In the evening relax with an exotic cocktail and drink in the evening landscape. Our bar offers a wide range of wine, beer and liqueurs or order an indulgent spa service, watch movies, go squid fishing or simply relax on our roof top deck under the cover of a brightly illuminated sky.

#### **DAY 6 HALONG BAY TO HANOI (B,Brunch)**

The morning is the best time of the day on Lan Ha Bay. You might like to head to the upper deck to participate in our daily Tai Chi sessions or relax with an early morning cup of tea, coffee or juice to watch the stunning scenery unfold before you.

A light breakfast of pastries, tea and coffee will be served in our restaurant before the final stage of your trip is to be taken through the mysterious caves and amongst the remote islets via local rowing boats. The breath-taking beauty of this World Heritage region will certainly impress you.

Following this, you will journey back to the main ship to check out of your cabin as we draw closer to the mainland.

After a final early brunch and a last farewell from our crew you will board our transfer boat and head back to the wharf where you will be met by your luxury van for the return trip to Hanoi and your hotel.

#### **DAY 7 HANOI- HO CHI MINH CITY TOUR - BOARD RV INDOCHINE II (B,L,D)**

This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Ho Chi Minh City.

On arrival in Ho Chi Minh City enjoy a tour of the city visiting the Reunification palace, Notre Dame cathedral and Central Post office.

We board our ship RV Indochine II and then have a welcome cocktail and dinner.

Overnight on board in Ho Chi Minh City.

#### **DAY 8 HO CHI MINH CITY- CU CHI TUNNELS- CHAO GAO (B,L,D)**

Today we visit the Cu Chi Tunnels to see the underground tunnel network constructed by Vietnamese fighters during the struggle for independence. Home to around 10,000 people for several years, it took about 25 years to build the underground city. The tunnel system was an excellent way for the Vietcong to move around the countryside undetected by the Americans. After a scenic drive through the picturesque villages we will watch a short introductory video on arrival before exploring the Cu Chi Tunnels and B52 bomb craters.

We will have lunch onboard before our afternoon visit of the National History museum then a visit to a lacquerware factory.

We return on board and set sail for the navigation channel of Chao Gao.

Dinner and overnight on board after we drop anchor and moor for the night at Nha Be.

#### **DAY 9 CHAO GAO - MY THO - VINH LONG - CAI BE - SA DEC (B,L,D)**

We return on board for lunch and continue our cruise to Vinh Long and Cai Be which is located in the middle of the Delta region, between two arms of the Mekong. We set off in small boats through the arroyos and gardens which lead to Cai Be's colonial church.

Vinh Long, a land made rich by alluvium, is the country of mandarins and oranges.

All of life is organised around the water and we see houses built on stilts and hundreds of small boats that criss-cross in all directions.

We then set sail for Sac Dec.

Dinner and overnight stop at our mooring point.

#### **DAY 10 SA DEC (B,L,D)**

We return on board for a hearty breakfast and continue our cruise to Chau Doc, a town at the border between Cambodia and Vietnam which became part of Vietnamese territory some 300 years ago.

We have lunch on board and arrive in Chau Doc in the early afternoon. Situated in the heart of a gigantic grid of rice fields, the city of Chau Doc embraces both banks of the Mekong and the floating farms overspill into the waters. Chau Doc is a very prosperous town which developed around fishing and farming. Inside the town, a few colonial buildings with their old fashioned charm still remain. The market which surrounds them is the vibrant heart of the city and a multitude of colours.

Transfer by small boat to visit a Cham village, a village of weavers and fish farms.

Dinner and overnight stop in Chau Doc.

#### **DAY 11 CHAU DOC - PHNOM PENH (B,L,D)**

We spend the day afloat today, first heading for the Cambodian border, where we complete customs during the morning and continue our journey.

Lunch and dinner are taken on board as we arrive towards the end of the day in Phnom Penh.

After dinner we have a short "tuk tuk" trip around the city in this motorised tricycle which is the traditional mode of transport in Phnom Penh.

We moor for the night in the port of Phnom Penh.

#### **DAY 12 PHNOM PENH CITY TOUR (B,L,D)**

Founded in 1434, the capital of Cambodia retains much of its colonial charm, thanks to the rehabilitation of part of its architectural heritage. We visit the Silver Pagoda, constructed of wood in 1892 then rebuilt in 1962, and the Royal palace, symbolic heart of the nation and one of the finest examples of Cambodian architecture in classical Khmer style.

Then we visit the National museum housing the Fine Arts museum, built in 1917 by the French in traditional

Khmer architectural style.

We have lunch in a local restaurant and this afternoon we have the option to visit the Tuol Svay Prey S21 school, former centre of detention, torture and execution used by the Khmer Rouge during the civil war. There is free time in the “Central Market” - crammed full with all types of businesses. This evening we have an Apsara dance show by student dancers and musicians.

Dinner and overnight on board, in the port of Phnom Penh.

### **DAY 13 KOH CHEN - KAMPONG TRALACH - KAMPONG CHHNANG (B,L,D)**

We set sail early morning, have breakfast on board before we visit Koh Chen, a small village where the inhabitants are experts in silverwork and copper work. The ornaments and decorations used during traditional ceremonies in the pagoda or for weddings are made here.

Visit the private school of Mr. Thom Umson, a bright French teacher.

We have lunch on board and arrive in Kampong Tralach to visit the beautiful Vihara of the Wat Kampong Tarlach Leu Pagoda.

We cross through the village of Kampong Tralach by oxcart to reach the pagoda on a small path running perpendicular to the river amidst a magnificent landscape of rice fields. The Vihara dates back to the beginning of last century and has many magnificent wall paintings which are starting to suffer from the effects of time. Completely isolated in the middle of the rice fields, the pagoda is quite unassuming and does not receive many visitors, so its isolation makes it a truly magnificent spot.

We return on board and continue our cruise to Kampong Chhnang.

Dinner and overnight stop.

### **DAY 14 KAMPONG CHHNANG - LAKE TONLE (B,L,D)**

We have breakfast on board and then visit Kampong Chhnang. Located some 90km from Phnom Penh, the town of Kampong Chhnang is one of the largest fishing ports on the Tonle Sap. Here they also have many fish farms. The region is best known for its fine traditional pottery which is a major source of revenue for the entire country, and the region's very name Kampong Chhnang means “the port of the pottery” in Khmer.

We visit a traditional grove of palm trees and taste some palm sugar before a visit to a traditional pottery.

Next we visit a floating village using small local boats. All the buildings here are afloat - the school, the shops and so on, and life develops along the canal network. We return on board for lunch then continue our cruise to lake Tonle Sap, the largest freshwater lake in southeast Asia which forms the heart of the hydraulic system of the Mekong.

Cocktail and Gala Dinner tonight and our overnight stop.

### **DAY 15 DISEMBARK RV INDOCHINE II- SIEM REAP (B)**

We spend the morning cruising, taking breakfast on board. Depending on the water levels, we cross the Tonle Sap lake on board the RV INDOCHINE II .

We arrive in the port of Siem Reap. You will be transferred to your hotel and the rest of the day is at your leisure.

### **DAY 16 ANGKOR SUNRISE TOUR (B,L)**

Today you will have an early pick up from your hotel and be driven to the Angkor Wat complex to view the sunrise over the magnificent temples.

You will have plenty of time to take photos and then return to your hotel for breakfast.

In the afternoon we will set off to explore Siem Reap with a tour of the city.

## **DAY 17                    ANGKOR THOM & ANGKOR WAT**

After breakfast, you will visit The Southern Gate of Angkor Thom, the famous Bayon, Baphuon, and Phimeanakas temples, plus Terraces of the Elephant and Leper King.

Lunch will be at a famous local restaurant.

In the afternoon visit Ta Prohm then explore the Angkor Wat temple, the 7th Wonder of the Ancient World. You will climb up to Bakheng Hill to watch the sunset over Angkor Wat and the surrounding area.

## **DAY 18                    SIEM REAP DEPARTURE**

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel today before we transfer you to the airport for your flight home.

## **DAY**

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