
BEST OF SOUTHEAST ASIA RIVER CRUISES HOLIDAY

Trip Code: TW0821LTL

Duration: 15

Destination: CAMBODIA - VIETNAM - LAOS - THAILAND

Travel Dates: 2021

DAY 1 SIEM REAP ARRIVAL (D)

On your arrival at Siem Reap's International Airport, you will be welcomed and transferred to your hotel. In the afternoon, after a trip briefing, then enjoy a Welcome Dinner.

DAY 2 ANGKOR WAT TOUR (B,L)

Morning: 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 at a famous local restaurant.

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 3 SIEM REAP FLY TO HANOI (B,D)

On your arrival at Noi Bai's International Airport, you will be welcomed and transferred to your hotel. In the afternoon, enjoy the iconic cyclo tour around the Old Quarter. Have your first glimpse of Hanoi, then enjoy a Dinner.⁴

DAY 4 HANOI - EMBARK HALONG BAY CRUISE (B,L,D)

Today, you will be transferred to Haiphong City and embark on your luxury 5* Era Cruise to discover the Halong Bay.

After boarding a special lunch of fresh seafood and an assortment of appetizing favorites will be served as we set sail for Lan Ha Bay passing by the Da Chong islet where you will see a lighthouse built by the French over 100 years ago. After lunch, explore the extraordinary limestone karst landscapes and crystal clear waters of the bay, by swimming or kayaking in the Ba Trai Dao beach or Tra Bau area.

Before dinner, a Vietnamese cooking demonstration is a great way to learn how to prepare delicious appetizers and you will be guided through the process. At 5.30-6.30pm, it is "Happy hour" with a special drink menu (buy one get another one for free).

Tonight, enjoy a special Signature Dinner in the restaurant. After dinner, relax with an exotic cocktail or whatever takes your fancy. Our bar has a wide range of wines, beers and liquors available. In the evening order a Spa service, or enjoy the many activities onboard such as watching documentary movies, squid fishing or simply relax on our rooftop deck under the cover of a star-filled sky.

Accommodation: Era Cruise

DAY 5 HALONG BAY (B,L,D)

Early birds are welcome to attend sunrise Tai Chi on our upper deck, which is an excellent way to get your energy levels up for today's adventures.

After breakfast, board our Era day boat to head to Viet Hai Village. Take a bicycle trip along the village paths, through rain forests and dark tunnels. Enjoy the stunning scenery of the rice fields along the way. Relax at the village and visit an ancient local house, made from straw, mud, bamboo...you will have a chance to see the local people and witness their way of life. Optional electric car service is available (at an extra cost).

Enjoy a delicious lunch with Signature set menu on our day boat.

After lunch, enjoy your free time kayaking and swimming at Ba Ham Lake area situated in the middle of a narrow, rectangular area, with all four sides enclosed by vertical cliffs (if the weather permits). Before dinner, the bar opens for Happy Hour with "buy one get one free", and you can enjoy cooking demonstrations to discover the Vietnamese cuisine of traditional spring rolls.

Tonight, we have another special dinner offering you outstanding food and quality service.

This evening is yours to enjoy as you please. We will hold a movie night with a selection of films available and have a selection of board games for your entertainment. Our bar is always open and is an ideal place to meet new people and share stories about your adventures.

Accommodation: Era Cruise

DAY 6 DISEMBARK ERA CRUISE - HANOI (B,L)

In the morning, practice Tai Chi onboard. Relax with an early morning cup of tea, coffee or juice anywhere you wish on the boat and watch the never ending miraculous scenery unfold before you. Enjoy the last stage of your Halong cruise to Dark & Bright cave and islets by local rowing boats which is a wild and mysterious beauty in the middle of the World Heritage. Back to our main board to enjoy brunch, then check out of your cabin.

You will be transferred back to the wharf, then transfer you back to your hotel in Hanoi. Enjoy your day at leisure.

DAY 7 HANOI – LUANG PRABANG – EMBARK MEKONG CRUISE (B,D)

On your arrival at Luang Prabang airport, you are picked up and transferred to the city center. In the afternoon, you board your boutique Laotian cruise ship. You settle into your comfortable cabin and unpack for an eight-day cruise. Your first excursion is a walk up Mount Phou Si, which offers a spectacular sunset view over the Mekong as well as the Khan River and the surrounding mountains.

In the evening, you can take a stroll along the Mekong promenade or visit the colorful Hmong night market. You have time to enjoy the ship's spacious decks and lounge before attending your welcome reception and dinner. A selection of Asian and European food is provided throughout the cruise.

Overnight on board.

DAY 8 LUANG PRABANG AND KUANG SI FALLS (B,L,D)

After breakfast on board, you explore the city on a half-day excursion, beginning with the famous Wat Xieng Thong temple and the National Museum of Luang Prabang. You enjoy the city's unique architectural style, which is a blend of Buddhist temples and monasteries with French colonial buildings.

During lunch on board, your vessel starts cruising downstream. An afternoon tuk-tuk excursion takes you to the Kuang Si Falls, one of the most gorgeous waterfalls in Laos.

Overnight on board.

DAY 9 PAK OU CAVES (B,L,D)

After a relaxing morning on board, you stop at the famous Pak Ou Caves, populated by thousands of Buddha statues of all shapes and sizes. From there, you can go on a short jungle trek through the forest to a small riverside village and visit the village distillery. Alternatively, you can reach the village comfortably by boat. That afternoon, you continue cruising upstream towards Oudomxay Province.

Overnight on board.

DAY 10 THE MIGHTY MEKONG (B,L,D)

The river traffic thins out as you proceed upstream, where you enjoy fantastic landscapes along the river. You relax on deck, in your comfortable cabin or in the lounge and soak up the scenery as the landscape becomes more and more spectacular—hills covered with tropical vegetation, awe-inspiring rock formations along the riverbanks, and a diverse array of rapid currents and slow rivulets. The power of the mighty Mekong will give your cruise the feeling of a real expedition.

Overnight on board.

DAY 11 RELAXATION & VILLAGE LIFE (B,L,D)

Today is a day to take it all in—the diversity of the landscape astonishes you as tropical hills emerge in the distance. You enjoy the tranquility of northern Laos, a real retreat from the hustle-and-bustle of life back home.

As you cruise past green hillsides, you start heading upstream toward Pak Tha. In the evening, you enjoy our barbecue dinner in a beautiful riverside location.

Overnight on board.

DAY 12 PAK THA & HUAY XAY (B,L,D)

At Pak Tha, a small village, you take off on a long-tail boat excursion on the Namtha River to visit a Khmu village. The small village school has been supported by donations from guests for many years. The purely natural landscape is only broken by seldom sights of small villages and herds of cattle.

In the afternoon, you proceed to the Thailand–Laos border at Chiang Khong, Thailand, and Huay Xay, Laos. That evening, you relax and enjoy your final delicious dinner in Laos.

Overnight on board.

DAY 13 THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE (B,L,D)

Today you go on an excursion to the Golden Triangle area at Chiang Saen, where you visit the Golden Buddha of Sop Ruak and the Hall of Opium Museum. This fascinating museum, sponsored by the royal family of Thailand, gives a deep background on the history and politics of the opium trade and the health effects of opium abuse. Your last evening onboard is celebrated with a farewell dinner.

Overnight on board.

DAY 14 FAREWELL - DISEMBARK CRUISE - CHANG RAI AIRPORT (B)

After breakfast you say goodbye to your Laotian crew. Later you check out and disembark from your boutique ship, taking with you a treasure chest of memories.

*Depending on the season and water level, check-out is either at Chiang Saen or Chiang Khong. (B)

DAY

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