



## Itinerary

### 15 Day Mekong River Cruise & Vietnam Tour

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE:** Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this itinerary.

#### DAY 1: Arrive Hanoi

Upon arrival you will be greeted at the airport by our tour representative and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is free at leisure.

*If you have included flights, you may be required to depart on day 0*

**MEALS:** Nil

**OVERNIGHT (3 Star):** Lenid Hotel, Hanoi or similar

**OVERNIGHT (4 Star):** Hanoi Pearl or similar

#### DAY 2: Hanoi Free Day

Take the opportunity to discover Hanoi at your own pace or opt for our optional Hanoi City Tour to make the most of your day.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT (3 Star):** Lenid Hotel, Hanoi or similar

**OVERNIGHT (4 Star):** Hanoi Pearl or similar

#### **OPTIONAL: *Hanoi City Tour***

*Embark on a full-day exploration of Hanoi, beginning with a convenient hotel pick-up at 8:00 AM. Delve into the rich history of Vietnam with a visit to the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, discovering the architectural and historical significance of Uncle Ho's final resting place. Adjacent lies Ho Chi Minh's house on stilts and the iconic One Pillar Pagoda, a symbol deeply ingrained in Hanoi's cultural fabric since its establishment by King Ly Thai To in 1049. Traverse to the serene Tran Quoc Pagoda at West Lake, one of Vietnam's oldest pagodas, before immersing yourself in the artistry of Bat Trang pottery village (available on Mon, Wed & Fri), with a sumptuous lunch awaiting at a local eatery. In the afternoon, delve into Vietnam's diverse heritage with visits to the Ethnology Museum (open on Sun, Tue, Thu & Sat), the venerable Literature Temple, and Quoc Tu Giam, the country's inaugural university established in 1070. Stroll by the tranquil Hoan Kiem Lake, beholding the serenity of its waters and the allure of Ngoc Son temple. Conclude your journey through Hanoi's historic Old Quarter, offering opportunities for shopping and further exploration, before the tour winds down around 3:30-4:00 PM. Rest overnight in Hanoi, relishing the included amenities such as transportation, an English-speaking guide, lunch, entrance fees, and refreshments.*

### DAY 3: Halong Bay Overnight Cruise

Pickup at 8:00am to journey through lush Vietnamese countryside to stunning Halong Bay, scattered with hundreds of limestone islets as far as the eye can see. Once on board our traditional junk boat, we tuck in to a delicious seafood lunch while we cruise the emerald waters. In the afternoon we will stop for some water based activities such as swimming, kayaking or taking a rowing boat into smaller islets looking for the local cheeky monkeys that live on the rocks. In the evening you can try your hand at some squid fishing, star gazing or making new friends over some nice cold beers. Spend the night onboard in your comfortable cabin and enjoy the peacefulness of the Bay.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT (3 Star):** Le Journey Cruise 3\* or similar

**OVERNIGHT (4 Star):** Le Journey Cruise 4\* or similar

### DAY 4: Halong Bay ~ Hanoi

This morning we continue to sail through the majestic landscape of Halong Bay stopping for a walk around the 'Amazing Cave' full of stalagmites and stalactites. Then we enjoy another buffet lunch on board as we sail back to the harbour. Drive back to Hanoi, arriving at around 5pm. Have the evening free at your leisure in Hanoi. We suggest you visit the Old Town and markets, enjoy some street food and soak up the exciting culture of the Vietnamese capital city.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch

**OVERNIGHT (3 Star):** Lenid Hotel, Hanoi or similar

**OVERNIGHT (4 Star):** Hanoi Pearl or similar

### DAY 5: Hanoi ~ Hoi An

Enjoy a time in Hanoi to explore more nooks and crannies of this amazing city before transferring to the airport for a flight to Da Nang. Upon arrival you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel in Hoi An. The remainder of the day is free at your own leisure.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT (3 Star):** Sunshine Hoi An Hotel or similar

**OVERNIGHT (4 Star):** Royal Riverside or similar

### DAY 6: Hoi An Free Day

Indulge in a full day of relaxation in the picturesque surroundings of Hoi An, or opt for one of our optional tours to explore either the enchanting My Son Holy Land or the iconic Ba Na Hill Golden Bridge.

Dive into the vibrant shopping scene of Hoi An, where you can acquire exquisite tailor-made clothing, or unwind with a locally crafted fresh beer by the river, taking in the tranquil rhythm of life as it flows by.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT (3 Star):** Sunshine Hoi An Hotel or similar

**OVERNIGHT (4 Star):** Royal Riverside or similar

**OPTIONAL: *My Son Holy Land***

*Embark on an enriching journey to the ancient marvels of My Son Holy Land, a full-day excursion beginning with a prompt departure at 8:00 AM. Traverse 40 kilometers to reach this UNESCO World Heritage Site, a testament to the cultural significance of Southeast Asia akin to Bagan in Myanmar and Angkor in Cambodia. Delve into the historical tapestry of My Son, once the spiritual nexus of the Cham people spanning from the 7th to 13th centuries, as you explore its revered archaeological remnants accompanied by an insightful guide. Following the tour, indulge in a satisfying buffet lunch before returning to Hoi An, where the evening awaits you for leisurely pursuits. Revel in included conveniences such as transportation, an English-speaking guide, lunch at a local eatery, entrance fees, and refreshing amenities throughout the excursion.*

**OPTIONAL: *Ba Na Hills Golden Hand Bridge***

*Embark on a full-day adventure to Bana Hill and the iconic Golden Bridge, commencing with a prompt hotel pick-up at 8:00 AM. Begin your ascent to Bana Hill by cable car, marveling at the vast expanse of the forest below, immersing yourself in the pristine ecological wonders of Ba Na Mountain. Explore the historical Le Jardin and remnants of old wineries, echoes of French colonial villas, before ascending further to Gare Debay via the second cable car station. Delight in the exhilarating thrills of the Fantasy Park, the third largest indoor amusement park globally, with select complimentary games as per Ba Na policy, followed by a delectable buffet lunch at a local restaurant. Conquer the summit of Chua Mountain at a breathtaking altitude of 1,487m, relishing panoramic vistas of Da Nang from atop Ba Na Hills before beholding the architectural marvel of the Golden Bridge. Conclude your adventure with a return cable car journey and transfer to Hoi An, cherishing included amenities such as transportation, an English-speaking guide, lunch, cable car tickets, entrance fees, and refreshing refreshments throughout the day.*

**DAY 7: Hoi An ~ Ho Chi Minh City ~ Embark Ship**

Spend your last morning in Hoi An before transferring to the airport for your short flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Upon arrival you will be met at the airport and transferred to the Liberty Riverside Hotel, where you can arrive between 11:30 am and 12:30 pm. After a leisurely lunch, we will explore the bustling Chinatown, immersing ourselves in the vibrant culture and daily life of the locals. Next, we'll visit the historic Giac Lam Pagoda, which, at over 300 years old, is the oldest pagoda in Ho Chi Minh City. We'll conclude the afternoon with a brief 15-minute walking tour through the Flower Market and Binh Tay Market, experiencing how locals buy and sell fresh produce, flowers, and traditional products. Following the tour, we'll transfer to the ship, where you can settle into your cabin. In the evening, meet the crew at a welcome cocktail, followed by dinner on board. Spend the night docked in downtown Ho Chi Minh City. If you're keen for more adventure, the optional "Saigon After Dark" excursion.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Toum Tiou 2

**\*\*\*OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: SAIGON AFTER DARK VESPA TOUR\*\*\***

*Saigon After Dark is a unique evening excursion that combines the thrill of the city's nightlife with a delicious street food journey. Experience Saigon like a local, riding through the vibrant streets on the back of a vintage Vespa scooter.*

## Tour Highlights:

1. Begin with a cocktail and appetiser at a rooftop lounge, soaking in stunning views of the city.
2. Head to a local eatery to enjoy street seafood paired with refreshing cold drinks.
3. Stop at a traditional Banh Xeo restaurant, where you'll taste this iconic Vietnamese pancake, a specialty of Saigon and southern cuisine.
4. Finish the night at a live music venue, where you'll relax with a drink while enjoying performances from local musicians.

This immersive tour takes you from one lively location to the next, giving you the chance to explore Saigon's bustling streets and iconic landmarks under the glow of the city lights.

## Tour Details:

- Daily Departure: 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- Duration: 4 hours

### Day 8: Ho Chi Minh City

After a delicious breakfast on board, we will embark on a city tour, starting with a short drive into the heart of downtown. The walking tour includes stops for photos at key landmarks influenced by French colonial architecture, such as the Reunification Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral, Municipal Post Office, City Square, and the Opera House. As we explore the city on foot, take in the greenery and beauty of nature nestled within this dynamic urban environment. We'll also stop at a local coffee shop to experience Vietnam's renowned coffee culture.

After the morning tour, we'll return to the ship for lunch. In the afternoon, we'll visit the War Remnants Museum for an insightful look into Vietnam's complex history. After the tour, we'll return to the ship, which will set sail for My Tho. Enjoy dinner on board and another peaceful night on the river.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Toum Tiou 2

### Day 9: My Tho ~ Cai Be

After breakfast on board, we'll cruise along the magnificent Chao Gao Canal, an active waterway bustling with river traffic. This unique passage offers a rare glimpse of both the vibrant canal life and the tranquillity of the surrounding countryside, available exclusively on this cruise. Upon arrival in My Tho, we'll board a local boat to visit Thoi Son Island, where you can experience the daily lives of the island's residents and sample seasonal fruits.

We'll continue with a serene sampan ride through the scenic canals of the Mekong Delta, providing an intimate look at the region's unique waterways. Later, enjoy a biking excursion through a local village, giving you the chance to connect with residents and admire the lush fruit orchards. After returning to the ship, we'll set sail for Cai Be and have lunch while cruising. On arrival, we'll embark on another boat tour along the Mekong River and visit a local craft village to see traditional products being made. The day concludes with a kayaking adventure or a scenic bike ride through the countryside, offering different ways

to experience the Mekong's beauty. Dinner will be served on board as we cruise toward Sa Dec, where we will anchor for the night.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Toum Tiou 2

### Day 10: Sa Dec

After breakfast on board, we'll begin the day with a short boat tour of Sa Dec. Our first stop is Trung Vuong Primary School (closed on weekends and holidays), where you'll learn about the local education system. Next, we'll stroll through Sa Dec Market along the riverbank, experiencing the buzz of local commerce and observing daily life (please note the market is closed during Lunar New Year).

We'll return to the ship and set sail for Chau Doc, with lunch and dinner served on board during the journey. Relax and enjoy the scenic river views as we cruise through the Mekong Delta, arriving in Chau Doc in the evening, where we will anchor overnight.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Toum Tiou 2

### Day 11: Chau Doc ~ Phnom Penh

After breakfast, we'll explore the thriving town of Chau Doc, located on the Cambodia-Vietnam border, known for its fishing and fish farming industry. We'll visit the beautiful Tra Su Forest by small local boats, gliding through serene waterways surrounded by lush flora and abundant wildlife. After our forest tour, we'll return to the ship for lunch.

In the afternoon, we'll take a scenic cable car ride to Sam Mountain, offering breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. At the summit, we'll visit the Ba Chua Xu Temple, an important pilgrimage site. After our visit, we'll return to the ship and continue towards the Vinh Xuong border, where we'll complete customs formalities and enter Cambodia. We'll sail toward Phnom Penh, arriving in the evening. Dinner will be served on board, followed by a relaxing night at anchor.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Toum Tiou 2

### Day 12: Phnom Penh

We'll start the day with breakfast on board before embarking on a guided tour of Phnom Penh. Our first stops will be the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda, two iconic examples of Cambodian architecture. Next, we'll explore the National Museum, home to a rich collection of Khmer art and artefacts.

After lunch, we'll enjoy an afternoon tour by tuk-tuk, offering an immersive and authentic way to explore the city. We'll visit the beautifully restored Art Deco Central Market (locally known as Phsar Thmei) to experience the bustling shopping scene. From there, we'll wander through hidden alleyways, where you'll see locals enjoying coffee, playing chess, and going about their daily routines. We'll also visit Wat Phnom, the city's namesake pagoda built to house Buddhist relics. A short walk will take us to the French Quarter, where you can admire colonial-era architecture.

In the evening, back on board, enjoy a traditional Apsara dance performance before dinner. The night is yours to relax and enjoy at the port of Phnom Penh.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Toum Tiou 2

### Day 13: Udong ~ Kampong Tralach

After breakfast, we'll set sail toward Udong, Cambodia's former capital. Docking at Koh Chen, we'll transfer by van to the Vipassana Dhura Meditation Centre to learn about Insight Meditation. Next, we'll climb the steps to several temples and stupas, including three large stupas holding the ashes of former Cambodian kings, with sweeping views of the plains below.

Returning to the ship, we'll cruise toward Kampong Tralach, with lunch on board. Upon arrival, we'll visit the Wat Kampong Tralach Leu Pagoda. To reach the pagoda, we'll ride ox carts through the picturesque village, passing through stunning rice fields. You'll have the option to return to the ship on a mountain bike, riding through the scenic countryside for a closer connection with the natural beauty of the area. Dinner will be served on board as we sail toward Kampong Chhnang.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Toum Tiou 2

### Day 14: Kampong Chhnang ~ Koh Chen

After breakfast, we'll visit Kampong Chhnang, one of the largest fishing ports on Tonle Sap Lake. The area features many fish farms and offers experiences in traditional pottery, where ancient techniques merge with modern methods. Enjoy a tasting of local products before returning to the ship. For those seeking more adventure, an optional cycling tour along the riverside and through the pottery village is available.

After returning to the ship, we'll have lunch on board while cruising toward Koh Chen. In the evening, enjoy a farewell dinner on board, celebrating the journey's highlights.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Toum Tiou 2

### Day 15: Siem Reap ~ Departure

After breakfast, we'll disembark for a coach transfer from Koh Chen to Lotus Blanc Hotel in Siem Reap. The scenic drive takes approximately 5-6 hours. We expect to arrive at the meeting point around 12:30 pm.

Upon arrival, make your own way to the airport. Please ensure your onward flight is scheduled no earlier than 3:30 pm to allow ample time for transfer and check-in. This marks the end of your incredible journey through Vietnam and Cambodia.

**MEALS:** Breakfast