



CRUISING THE MEKONG: SIAM, SAIGON & ANGKOR WAT - A LUXURY SMALL GROUP JOURNEY (2024)

Discover astonishing Angkor Wat and cruise for seven nights on an exclusive charter along the Mekong River to experience its varied cultures in rural settings, not easily reached by land.

Small Group Journeys, Luxury Small Group Journeys, Small Ship Cruising



Asia, Thailand, Cambodia,
Vietnam



12 days from AU\$16,410 pp



24 Guests

Journey Overview

Discover astonishing Angkor Wat and cruise for seven nights on an exclusive charter along the Mekong River to experience its varied cultures in rural settings not easily reached by land, on a journey that includes vibrant Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh City, the former Saigon.

Journey Highlights

- Cruise for seven nights on an exclusive charter of 24-guest 'Mekong Princess,' a luxurious, all-suite boutique riverboat able to access lesser-known ports, ushering you into the midst of authentic rural cultures
- Explore magnificent Angkor Wat at sunset with an expert guide, capping a full day among timeless ruins that include Bayon Temple and Ta Prohm Temple
- Gain deeper insight into Southeast Asia's varied, intertwined river cultures through interactions with local villagers, families in their homes and monks in pagodas
- Cruise straight into the heart of old Saigon and select from an array of active, cultural and culinary options that reveal the diverse appeal of today's Ho Chi Minh City



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Bangkok, Thailand

Arrive in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, and transfer to your hotel.

Four Seasons Hotel Bangkok at Chao Phraya River

Day 2: Bangkok | Gliding on the Serene Chao Phraya River

Discover Wat Pho temple, with its massive Reclining Buddha statue, and listen to the musical sound of coins dropping into brass offering bowls. Then, travel by tuk-tuk to the sprawling Grand Palace to view the royal Siamese court, home to Thailand's most important shrine, the green-jade Emerald Buddha. Next, gather for a light lunch aboard a traditional wooden rice barge. Cruise the Chao Phraya River in a relaxed atmosphere, taking in sights along the waterfront, including glittering Wat Arun. Later, fly to Siem Reap, Cambodia, where you transfer to your hotel.

Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor | Meals: BLD

Day 3: Siem Reap, Cambodia | Sunset at Angkor Wat

Set off to explore the extraordinary temples of Angkor, a breathtaking city lost in the jungle and Cambodia's most prized national treasure. Enter the monumental gates of Angkor Thom and visit the Bayon Temple, with its 172 large-scale faces wearing enchanting smiles. Continue to Ta Prohm Temple to see crumbling towers embraced by massive tree roots. This afternoon, visit magnificent Angkor Wat, where you stay until sunset, marveling as the diminishing, moody light washes over this unforgettable, faraway world. Enjoy a welcome dinner this evening.

Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor | Meals: BL

Day 4: Cruising the Mekong | Board Your All-Suite Cruiser

Drive through the lush and scenic Cambodian countryside to Kampong Cham, where you board A&K's private charter of all-suite 'Mekong Princess,' your boutique river cruiser for the next seven nights. Tonight, enjoy a Khmer-inspired dinner.

'Mekong Princess' | Meals: BLD

Day 5: Cruising the Mekong | Life in a Local Village

Explore the charming town of Angkor Ban, where you enjoy glimpses into the lives of local people, starting with a visit to a family home. Stroll through a small market frequented by locals and stop briefly at a monastery complex. Then, board 'Mekong Princess' and cruise to Phnom Penh, where you Ride Like a Local through Cambodia's lush and alluring capital city on an engaging *cyclo* tour. Discover the ornate Royal Palace, and wander past huge *stupas* (Buddhist monuments) and spirit houses en route to the Silver Pagoda, home of Cambodia's Emerald Buddha and the diamond-encrusted Maitreya Buddha. Visit the National Museum before returning to the ship.

'Mekong Princess' | Meals: BLD

Day 6: Cruising the Mekong | Phnom Penh

This morning, learn about Cambodia's darker days as you visit the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, and then walk the notorious killing fields of Choeung Ek, one of history's most infamous places. Your afternoon is free for you to relax on your own. On board this evening, enjoy a professional exhibition of traditional folk dances.

'Mekong Princess' | Meals: BLD

Day 7: Cruising the Mekong | Crossing into Vietnam

Cruise into Vietnam early this morning and continue downstream to little-known Hong Ngu, which nimble 'Mekong Princess' can enter with ease. In this place where few Westerners have ever been, experience an especially friendly welcome, followed by a visit to a local family home, where you watch the weaving of *kromas* (traditional Khmer scarves). Later, explore a local temple dedicated to Hoa Hao, a unique Vietnamese religion. In the afternoon, board a *sampan* (wooden boat) to Gieng Island, where dozens of the vessels are built each day. Cruise a canal past orchards and rice fields. Continue to a historic Christian monastery built by the French in 1879.

'Mekong Princess' | Meals: BLD

Day 8: Cruising the Mekong | Meet a Local Family

Disembark at the village of Hoa An, well known for its floral and craft industries. See how locals grow and use flowers, and meet a local family in their home. Later, reboard the ship and cruise downstream toward Can Tho, where you disembark to visit Zihuang Pagoda. Back on board, relax on a Scenic Sundowner this evening, observing local life at the close of day along the delta.

'Mekong Princess' | Meals: BLD

Day 9: Cruising the Mekong | Floating Market Visit

Rise early for a *sampan* cruise through a fascinating floating market near Can Tho, weaving between boats that sell goods and produce. Fresh coconut water, the Vietnamese “anti-aging drink,” refreshes you before a stop at a local factory to see the making of traditional noodles. Back on board ‘Mekong Princess,’ cruise deeper into parts of the Mekong Delta rarely touched by travellers.

‘Mekong Princess’ | Meals: BLD

Day 10: Cruising the Mekong | Life Among the Mangroves

Today, board a *sampan* to wend your way through a channel lined with mangroves, whose tangled roots provide a sheltered habitat for the smallest denizens of the river’s ecosystem. Pause to see an artisan produce coconut candy, a favourite local snack. Next, board a small boat for a cruise through lush, narrow creeks lined with nipa palms, a native species and the only one of its kind adapted to the mangrove habitat. Participate in a Chef’s Table cooking demo this afternoon, led by your onboard chef.

‘Mekong Princess’ | Meals: BLD

Day 11: Ho Chi Minh City | Design Your Day

Unlike other river ships that are forced to dock outside of Saigon, ‘Mekong Princess’ takes you right into the heart of this lively, evocative metropolis, now known as Ho Chi Minh City. Disembark your river cruiser to enjoy one of these **Design Your Day** activities.

- **Visit the War Remnants Museum** to view photographs by Bunyo Ishikawa, a Vietnam War photojournalist, and then explore Reunification Palace.
- **Explore the City's Bustling Culinary Scene**, sampling traditional dishes prepared by local street-food vendors.
- **Cycle the Countryside**, exploring the nearby Thanh Da Peninsula.

Tonight, gather for a special farewell dinner.

The Reverie Saigon | Meals: BD

Day 12: Depart Ho Chi Minh City

After breakfast, transfer to the airport to depart.

Meals: B

Journey Details

Internal air included: Bangkok/Siem Reap

This journey contains some active elements.

Minimum age is 10 years.

First group event: welcome briefing at 8:30 a.m. on Day 2.

Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:30 p.m. on Day 11.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

Included with every Luxury Small Group Journey

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Luxury Accommodations
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Travelling Bell Boy Luggage Handling
- Breakfast in Bed on Select Days
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Your Choice of Activity on Design Your Day
- Traveller's Valet Laundry Service
- Internet Access
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

Customise this Journey

Talk to one of our expert Journey Designers or your travel agent about booking this tour as a private journey for your own small group with family or friends. Or, if you would prefer to travel privately, find out more about creating the perfect bespoke Tailor-Made Journey based on this itinerary.

Map



Extensions



Luang Prabang Pre Tour
Extension - A Luxury Small
Group Journey (2024)

[See Details](#)

Accommodation

Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor



Raffles Grand Hotel D'Angkor is a grand historic hotel that has been sensitively restored to its original architectural elegance, to offer guests a flavour of colonial times. Located in the heart of Siem Reap, close to the majestic Angkor Wat, it offers convenient access to some of the most intriguing ruins of the temple complex.

The hotel's 120 rooms and suites are tastefully appointed with Art Deco country style furnishings and Cambodian object d'art, reflecting the period architectural theme. Room options range from staterooms and suites to superb two bedroom villas.

Why we like it

- Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor is situated only a few kilometres from the ancient Angkor complex
- Dining options include the international buffet at Café d'Angkor, fine dining at Restaurant Le Grand, a barbecue at the Poolside Terrace or an Asian style buffet and Cambodian cultural show at the Apsara Terrace
- Raffles Amrita Spa offers treatments combining the best of Western technologies and Eastern therapies

- A 35m lap pool is inspired by ancient royal bathing pools
- Other facilities include bars and lounges, a library, beautifully landscaped gardens, and, nearby, a wonderful local night market

The Reverie Saigon



The Reverie is located in one of the city's most prestigious addresses with unrivalled views. The hotel has no comparison with a style of Italian design and luxury not seen in Vietnam before. The 62 luxury suites and 224 luxury rooms have been designed by the finest Italian interior designers; Colombostile, Giorgetti, Provasi and Visonaire. The hotel's restaurants all offer inspired fine dining and world-class service. The top-shelf bar is one of the places to be seen, whilst the luxurious spa offers the perfect escape from the buzz of the city.

Why we like it:

- One of the most luxurious hotels in the city
- A hotel created for those that like to stand out from the crowd
- Fully non-smoking - unusual for Ho Chi Minh City
- Renowned for its opulent interior designs
- The highest hotel in the city with panoramic views from the floor to ceiling windows.

Dates & Pricing

Prices are in AUD, per person, based on double occupancy

Dec 16, 2024 - Dec 27, 2024

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|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Cabin Class | Price | Single Supplement | Internal Air (From) | Availability |
| Mekong Princess: Saigon Suite | AU\$16,410 pp | AU\$1,685 | Included | Call for Availability |
| Cabin Class | Price | Single Supplement | Internal Air (From) | Availability |
| Mekong Princess: Apsara Suite | AU\$17,195 pp | AU\$2,145 | Included | Call for Availability |
| Cabin Class | Price | Single Supplement | Internal Air (From) | Availability |
| Mekong Princess: Tonle Suite | AU\$19,390 pp | AU\$3,375 | Included | Call for Availability |
| Cabin Class | Price | Single Supplement | Internal Air (From) | Availability |
| Mekong Princess: Angkor Suite | AU\$20,960 pp | AU\$4,915 | Included | Call for Availability |

Abercrombie & Kent

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